

A
T O U R
THROUGH THE ISLAND OF
GREAT BRITAIN.

DIVIDED INTO
CIRCUITS OR JOURNIES.

CONTAINING,

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|---|--|
| I. A Description of the Principal Cities and Towns, their Situation, Government, and Commerce. | baries, Shipping in the <i>Thames</i> , and Trade, by means of that noble River, &c. |
| II. The Customs, Manners, Exercises, Diversions, and Employments of the People. | V. The Produce and Improvement of the Lands, the Trade, and Manufactures. |
| III. The Nature and Virtue of the many Medicinal Springs with which both Parts of the United Kingdom abound. | VI. The Sea Ports and Fortifications, the Course of Rivers, and the Inland Navigation. |
| IV. An ample Description of London, including <i>Westminster</i> and <i>Southwark</i> , their Bridges, Squares, Hospitals, Churches, Palaces, Markets, Schools, Li- | VII. The Public Edifices, Seats, and Palaces of the Nobility and Gentry. |
| | VIII. The Isles of <i>Wight</i> , <i>Scilly</i> , <i>Portland</i> , <i>Jersey</i> , <i>Guernsey</i> , and the other <i>English</i> and <i>Scottish</i> Isles of most Note. |

Interspersed with Useful Observations.

Particularly fitted for the Perusal of such as desire to Travel
over the ISLAND.

Originally begun by the Celebrated DANIEL DE FOE, continued by the late Mr. RICHARDSON, Author of *Clarissa*, &c. and brought down to the present Time by Gentlemen of Eminence in the Literary World.

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A
T O U R
THROUGH THE ISLAND OF
GREAT BRITAIN.

LETTER I.

*Containing a DESCRIPTION of the North Shores
of the Counties of Cornwall and Devon, and
some Parts of Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Dor-
setshire, Gloucestershire, Buckinghamshire, and
Berkshire.*

I NOW turned to the east; and as, when I went west, I kept to the southern coast of this long county of *Cornwall*, and of *Devonshire* likewise, so, in going east, I shall keep the north shore.

The first place of any note we came to, was *St. Ives*, situated on the west-side of a deep bay, called *St. Ives-bay*, from the town. This bay is opposite, on the land-side, to *Mount's-bay*, but it is filled up
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with sands, and here is very little trade in any thing but *Cornish* slate.

A very pleasant view we have at *Madern-hills*, and the plain by them, in the way from the *Land's-end* to *St. Ives*; where we have a prospect of the ocean at the *Land's-end*, west; of the *British* channel at *Mount's-bay*, south; and the *Bristol* channel, or *Severn* sea, north. Near *St. Ives*, the land between the two bays, being not above four or five miles over, is an hill so situated, that upon it neither of the two seas are above three miles off, and very plain to be seen; and so likewise, in a clear day, are the islands of *Scilly*, tho' above 30 miles off. *St. Ives* is a borough-town, governed by a mayor, 12 capital and 24 inferior burgessees, with a recorder and town-clerk, and sends two members to parliament. The town is now small, but has an handsome church, which however is but a chapel of ease to the parish of *Unilalant*.

The country from hence to *Padstow* is both fruitful and pleasant, and several gentlemens houses are seen as we pass; the sands also are very agreeable to the eye, and to travel upon.

The hills are fruitful of tin, copper, and lead, all the way on our right-hand; the product of which is carried to the other shore, so that we shall have little to say of it here. The chief business on this shore is the herring-fishing: The herrings about *October* come driving up the *Severn* sea, and from the coast of *Ireland*, in prodigious shoals, and beat all upon this coast as high as *Biddeford* and *Barnstaple* in *Devonshire*; and are caught in great quantities by the fishermen, chiefly on account of the merchants of *Falmouth*, *Foy*, *Plymouth*, and other ports on the south.

St. Michael's, or *Modishole*, a mean Portreeve borough, tho' it sends two members to parliament, is not now remarkable; but was of great note in the *Saxon* time, and has now a yearly fair.

We then came to *St. Columb's*, a little market-town, a Lordship belonging to the *Arundels* of *Wardour*; so called, to distinguish them from the *Arundels* of *Trerice* in this county; both families espousing the King's side in the civil wars, suffered much; and the former was ennobled in *Charles II.*'s time. *St. Columb's* is one of the best parsonages in *Cornwall*; the yearly value between 5 and 600*l.*

Near this place is an hill, which has a rampire on the summit of it, and a causeway leading to it. 'Tis an old *Danish* camp, and called *Castellum Danis*.

Padstow is a large town, governed by a mayor and other officers, and stands on a very good harbour for such shipping as use the *Irish* trade. The harbour is the mouth of the river *Camel*, or *Camal*, which, rising at *Camelford*, runs down by *Bodmyn* to *Wadbridge*, a little town, where a large stone bridge, of about eight arches, is built, by the contributions of the country gentlemen, at the motion, and under the direction, of *Nicholas Lovibond*, vicar of *Wadbridge*; the passage over the river before being very dangerous, and having occasioned the loss of some lives, as well as goods.

Higher within the land lies the market and borough-town of *Bodmyn*, formerly one of the coining-towns of tin, till it lost that privilege to *Lestwithiel*: however, it still enjoys several advantages, besides that of returning members to parliament, some of which are tokens of its antiquity. It is pretty large, and stands between two hills, in a good air. It had anciently several churches, of which now only one remains, which belonged to the priory; and is, at present, the parish-church. A kind of carnival is kept here yearly, in *July*, whither great numbers of people resort. It is governed by a mayor, 12 aldermen, 24 common-council, and a town-clerk, who have a toll and lands to the value of 200*l. per An-*

num. Here is the sheriff's prison for debtors, and a free-school.

The coinage-towns were, in Queen *Elizabeth's* time, four; namely,

Leskard, Lestwithiel, Truro, Helston.

Since that, in King *James's* time, was added *Pen-sance*.

Camelford is a mean but ancient borough-town, said to be incorporated by *Charles I.* and is governed by a mayor, 8 aldermen, a recorder, and town-clerk. Here the river *Camel* rises, which takes its name from the *British* word *Cam*, i. e. *crooked*. It has not either church or chapel in it, nor ever had; but it returns two members to parliament.

The borough of *Bossiney*, otherwise called *Tintagel*, or *Trevena*, is but a small town, governed by a mayor and burgeses. It is famous for the splendid ruins of an impregnable castle, built on the rock, which stood partly on the continent, and partly on an island, joined together by a draw-bridge. The castle was the Seat of the *British* princes, and since of the dukes of *Cornwall*. This place sends two Members to parliament; as does the next, to wit,

Launceston, which is a corruption of the *British* word, *Llanstyphan*, i. e. *St. Steven's* church: it is a market and borough-town, pretty neat, and is situate on a rising ground, at the extremity of the county, on the borders of *Devonshire*. Great part of it is very old, ragged, and decayed.

When *Richard* earl of *Cornwall* had the government of this county, this was a frontier-town, well walled about, and fortified; and had also a noble castle, which, from its strength, was called castle *Terrible*. The inhabitants, for the defence and repair of it, held formerly the land here by castle-guard.

Not far from hence is *Hengeston-hill*, which produces great plenty of *Cornish* diamonds: here the *Cornish Britons* joined the *Danes*, to drive out the *Saxons*
from

from *Devonshire* ; but were totally defeated by *Egbert* in 831, which, it is conjectured, gives the name of *Hengist* to this hill, in commemoration of their first leader.

There is a fine image or figure of *Mary Magdalen*, on the side of a wall of the church at *Launceston*, to which the papists fail not to pay reverence as they pass by. Here are many attorneys, who manage business for the rest of their fraternity at the assizes. As to trade, it has not much to boast of ; and yet there are people enough in it to excuse those who call it a populous place.

Newport is a little village adjoining, and was formerly part of *Launceston* ; and yet sends two members to parliament : and indeed there are no less than 44 for this county ; and the number of electors is so small, in many places, that an administration, of which side soever it be, as to party, has usually a great reliance on the elections in this county every new parliament, in order to obtain a majority in the house of commons : for 44 members from *Cornwall*, and 45 from another part of the island, who generally go one way, make no small figure in a question. And, in this case, it may not be improperly observed, that the two extremities of the island, let the other parts go as they will, are generally united in the same way of thinking, or at least of acting, in all political debates ; and are likely to be so in all times to come.

Before I quit *Launceston* and *Newport*, I must not forget to mention *Werrington*, formerly the seat of Sir *William Morris*, secretary to King *Charles II.* in whose family it continued till 1775, when it was purchased, together with the adjoining estate, by the duke of *Northumberland*. The house is not undeserving attention, and the park is one of the finest in *England*, distinguished for its noble woods and fine slopes, and being full of red and fallow deer. The beautiful river that runs through the park is the

boundary that here divides the counties of *Cornwall* and *Devon*. The neighbouring counties consider it as a most fortunate acquisition, that this estate is fallen into his grace's hands, who already has begun to display that generosity and magnificence among them, which has so long made this illustrious family respected by the inhabitants of *Middlesex*, *Northumberland* and *Yorkshire*.

This place is believed to have been the ancient residence of *Orgar*, earl of *Devonshire*, whither King *Edgar* sent his favourite earl *Athelwold*, to demand for him the beautiful *Elfrida*, whom that unfaithful emissary (seduced by her beauty) obtained for himself; and here, it is believed, was acted the subsequent tragedy of that earl's death. Certain it is, that in the house is preserved a part of the ancient castle, still called *Edgar's tower*; and in the park are still shewn the remains of a cross, which, according to tradition, was erected by *Elfrida*, on the very spot where *Athelwold* was slain by the hand of his enraged master.

There is a long nook of the country runs north from *Launceston*, called the *Hundred of Stratton*, in which there is one market-town, named *Stratton*; but it has nothing in or about it worth remarking: yet once it had, in *Stow house*, built by the earl of *Bath*, in the reign of King *Charles II.* and, as to its finishings within, not inferior to any in *England*. The situation of this stately palace rendering it a disagreeable habitation, the owners disposed of the materials, and it is now totally demolished.

Not far from *Bodmyn* is to be seen the set of monumental stones, called *The Hurlers*; which Dr. *Stukely* says, are, out of doubt, remains of an antient *Druid* temple. Probably they are called by this name, from the game of hurling, practised in these parts; the country-people giving them that for want of a better: and indeed it is said, that they have a superstitious

fititious notion, that they were once men, who were transformed into stones, for playing at this sport on a *Sunday*. They are oblong, rude, unhewn stones, pitched on one end upon the ground. They stand on a down in three circles, the centres whereof are in a right line, the middlemost circle being the greatest. About half a mile from these, on the downs, stands a stone, called *the long stone*, more than two yards and a half high, having a cross on both sides of it.

Passing the river *Tamar*, about two miles from *Launceston*, we enter the great county of *Devon* in the most wild and barren part of it, and where formerly tin mines were found, tho' now they are either quite exhausted, or not to be worked without more charge than profit.

The river *Tamar* here abounds with salmon, which are so exceeding fat and good, that they are esteemed in both counties above the fish of the same kind found in other places; and the quantity is so great, as supplies the country in abundance. This is occasioned by the mouth of the river being so very large, and the water so deep for two leagues before it opens into *Plymouth Sound*, that the fish have a secure retreat in the salt water for their harbour and shelter; and from thence they shoot up into the fresh water, in vast numbers, to cast their spawn.

We ride but a few miles in *Devonshire*, before we find a different face, in several respects: As, 1. More people than in *Cornwall*: 2. Larger towns: 3. The People all busy, and in full employ upon their manufactures.

At the uppermost and extreme part of the county north-west, runs a promontory about three miles into the sea, beyond all the land on either side, whether of *Devonshire* or of *Cornwall*: the country-people call it *Hartland Point*, or *Hearty Point* * from

* It was anciently called *Promontorium Herculis*, whence its present name.

the town of *Hartland*, which stands just within the shore, and is situated on the utmost edge of the county of *Devon*. It is a market-town of good resort, and the people coming constantly to it out of *Cornwall*, the fisher-boats of *Barnstaple*, *Biddeford*, and the other towns on the coasts, lying often under the *Lee*, as they call it, of these rocks, for shelter from the south-west or south-east winds; at which time the seamen go on shore here, and supply themselves with provisions; nor is the town unconcerned in that gainful fishing trade, which is carried on for the herring on this coast.

From this point or promontory, the land falling away for some miles, makes a gulph or bay, which reaching to the head-land, or point of *Barnstaple* haven, is called from thence, *Barnstaple* bay; so that these two trading towns have but one port between them. They were formerly inconsiderable places: at present they are great and thriving. The manufactures of the large towns behind them, and their easy passage by the rivers beforementioned, the fisheries on the coasts, and their correspondence with *Ireland*, have raised them to great wealth and credit. Perhaps their emulation also has been no prejudice to either: on the contrary, if we consider the great improvements made to hinder one from clearly surpassing the other, and retaining that superiority for any length of time, we cannot but observe that it has been highly beneficial to both.

Clovelly is a small place, dependant as a creek upon *Barnstaple*. It has a pier supported by the ancient Family of *Cary*, to whom the place belongs, and might, with some expence, be made of far more consequence than it is.

The towns of *Barnstaple* and *Biddeford*, the first the most ancient, and returning two members to parliament, the other the most flourishing, seem so safe, so easy in their channel, so equally good with regard

to

to shipping, and so equi-distant from the sea, that neither town complains of the bounty of the sea to them, or their situation by land.

Biddeford, anciently written *By-the-Ford*, is a clean, well-built town: the more ancient street, which lies next the river, is very pleasant, where is the bridge, a very noble quay, and the custom-house: it is also well built and populous, and fronts the river for above three quarters of a mile: besides this, there is a new spacious street on a considerable ascent, which runs north and south, or rather north-west and south-east, a great length, broad as the *High street* of *Exeter*, well built, and inhabited by considerable and wealthy merchants, who traffick to most parts of the world.

The trade of *Biddeford*, as well as of all the towns on this coast, being very much in fish, I observed that several ships were employed to go to *Liverpool*, and up the river *Mersey*, to *Cheshire*, to fetch the rock-salt which is found in that county to *Biddeford* and *Barnstaple*, and there dissolve it into brine in the sea-water, joining the strength of two bodies in one, and then boil it up again into a new salt, as the *Dutch* do that of the *French* and *Portuguese*. This is justly called *Salt upon Salt*, and with this they cure their herrings.

Here is a long flat stone bridge over the river, built in the 14th century, on 24 *Gotwick* arches, all uniform and regular, and very good workmanship.

As *Biddeford* has so fine a bridge over the *Towridge*, so *Barnstaple* has a very noble one over the *Tave*; and tho' not longer, is counted larger and stronger than the other. These two rival towns are really very considerable; both of them have a large share in the trade to *Ireland*, in the herring fishery, and in a trade to the *British* colonies in *America*: if *Biddeford* cures more fish, *Barnstaple* imports more wine, and

other merchandizes ; they are both established ports for landing wool from *Ireland*.

If *Biddeford* has a greater number of merchants, *Barnstaple* has a greater commerce within land, by its great market for *Irish* wool and yarn, &c. with the serge markets of *Tiverton* and *Exeter*, which carry on a traffick here.

Barnstaple is a large, well built town, seated among the hills. It is also called *Barum* on the mile-stones near it, as *Salisbury* is called *Sarum*. It is more populous than *Biddeford*, but not better built, and stands lower ; insomuch that at high water in spring-tides it is, in a manner, surrounded with water. The bridge was built by the generous benefaction of one *Stamford*, a citizen and merchant of *London*, who, it seems, was not a native of the place ; but, by trading here to his gain, had kindness enough for the town, to confer that valuable benefit upon it. It was formerly walled in, and had a castle and a priory. 'Tis governed by a mayor and 24 burgeses, whereof two are aldermen. It has also an high steward, and recorder.

The bridge at *Biddeford*, was likewise a gift, by collections among the clergy, and grants of indulgences.

Behind *Biddeford*, as we come from *Launceston*, are several good towns (though I observed that the country was wild and barren), as *Tavistock*, *Torrington*, &c.

Tavistock returns two members to parliament. It is situated on the *Tave*, among springs, and is a large Portreeve-town, pretty well built, with an handsome parish-church, covered with slate : it has two almshouses, and is supplied by the *Tave* with plenty of fish. The abbot of this place sat in parliament ; built a church of 126 yards long, spacious cloisters, and a chapter-house, with 36 stalls, which are all now destroyed.

The

The town of *Torrington* is situated on the same river that *Biddeford* stands upon. It has a large spacious church, with a library in it; and was, for some time, the residence of *Margaret*, the mother of *Henry VII.* It is governed by a mayor, 8 aldermen, and 16 burgessees.

Another town in this part of the country is *Okehampton*, vulgarly *Okington*, a good market and ancient borough-town, governed by eight principal burgessees, and as many assistants. It is a manufacturing town, as all the towns this way now are, and pretty rich; but in the records of antiquity it appears to have been much more considerable than it is now, having 92 knights fees belonging to it. This town returns two members to parliament.

A little above *Barnstaple*, N. E. upon the coast, stands a noted market and port-town, called *Ilfordcomb*, a place of good trade, populous, and rich.

It is a commodious haven, from its natural advantages, but for its greater security a pier was long ago built, and a light-house erected, which were of much service. But these and other conveniencies were entirely made at the expence of the owner of the soil; and indeed most of these western ports were supported in this manner. As for instance, that of *Watchet*, by the now noble house of *Wyndham*; that of *Minehead*, by the ancient family of *Luttrell*; and this of which we are speaking, by the *Wreys*, or as it is also written *Wray*. Sir *Bouchier Wray* has built a summer-house close to the sea shore, on an high point near the bay, from whence there is a very extensive prospect of the ocean. Near the rocks is plenty of white samphire, such as grows in small quantities on the cliffs of *Dover*, which is totally different from the plant called and used as such in several other places, and which grows in abundance on the muddy shore of *Lincolnshire*. The right sort

has a fine aromatic taste when pickled. It is eat green with oil and vinegar.

Ilfordcomb is a corporation (governed by a mayor, bailiffs, and other officers) and a borough, tho' it does not now, nor ever did, send members to parliament. It consists chiefly of one good street, from the church to the sea-side, upwards of a mile long, and is a neat, well-built, populous, and thriving place, which is principally owing to its position, standing close upon the sea; so that ships can run in there, when it would be dangerous to go up to *Biddeford* or *Barnstaple*; and for this reason, several of the traders in the last-mentioned town do a great deal of their port business here.

A little to the eastward of *Ilfordcomb* lies *Comb Martin*, or, according to the custom of this county, as it is sometimes called, *Martin's Comb*, so named from its ancient owners, the *Martins*; which at present has only a cove for boats, but is very capable of being improved. Yet it is chiefly remarkable for a lead mine, discovered in the reign of *Edward I.* and out of the contents of which considerable quantities of silver were extracted; but by degrees, or through ill management, it was in no very long time exhausted. However, in the reign of *Edward III.* it was again wrought, and that to larger profit than before. In some short space after this, through the civil wars between the houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, these works were discontinued, but revived with stronger hopes in the reign of *Queen Elizabeth*, by *Sir Bevis Bulmer*, a skilful engineer, in great credit with that princess. *Mr. Bushel*, who valued himself on being servant and pupil to the famous *Lord Bacon*, made some proposals for recovering it a fourth time, a little before the Restoration; and towards the close of the last century it was actually opened, with mighty expectations, but with little effect.

Leaving the coast in our journey southward, we
came

came to the great river *Ex* or *Isca*, which rises in the hills on the north side of the county, and, like the *Tamar*, begins within four or five miles of the *Severn* sea. The country it rises in is called *Exmore*: *Camden* says it is a filthy, barren ground; and indeed so it is: But as soon as the *Ex* comes off from the moors and hilly country, and descends into the lower grounds, we found an alteration; for then we saw *Devonshire* in its other countenance, cultivated, populous, and fruitful; and continuing so till we came to *Tiverton*.

Next to *Exter*, *Tiverton* is the greatest manufacturing town in the county; and, of all the inland towns, is likewise next to it in wealth, and number of people: It stands on the river *Ex*, and has over it an old stone bridge, with another over the little river *Loman*, which immediately after falls into the *Ex* just below the town. Antiquity says, before those bridges were built, there were two fords here, one through each river; and that the town was from thence called *Twyfordton*, that is, *The Town upon the two Fords*; and so, by abbreviating the sounds, *Twyforton*, then *Tiverton*.

This town has been a remarkable sufferer by fire; for in the year 1598, *April* 3, it was consumed on a sudden; *August* 5, 1612, it was again burnt down; and *July* 5, 1731, another dreadful fire destroyed there 200 of the best houses.

The beauty of *Tiverton* is the free-school, at the east entrance into the town, a noble building, but a much nobler foundation. It was erected by one *Peter Blundel*, a clothier, a lover of learning; who used the saying of *William of Wickham* to the King, when he founded the Royal School at *Winchester*; viz. "That if he was not himself a scholar, he would be the occasion of making more scholars, than any scholar in *England*;" to which end he founded this school. The schoolmaster has, at least, 60 *l.* per annum,

annum, besides a very good house to live in, and the advantage of scholars not on the foundation; and the usher has in proportion. To this the generous founder added two fellowships and two scholarships, for which he gave the maintenance to *Sydney college* in *Cambridge*; and one fellowship and two scholarships to *Baliol college* in *Oxford*.

As this is a manufacturing country, we found the people here all fully employed, and very few, if any out of work. *Tiverton* returns two members to parliament, and is governed by a mayor, twelve principal burghesses, and twelve inferior burghesses, a recorder, and town-clerk.

From this town there is little belonging to *Devonshire* but what has been spoken of, except what lies in the road to *Taunton*, which we took next, where we meet with the river *Columb*, which rises also in the utmost limits of the county towards *Somersetshire*, and gives name to so many towns on its banks, that it leaves no room to doubt of its own name being right: Such are *Columb-David's*, *Uscolumb*, *Columbstock*, and *Columpton*; the last is a market-town, and they are all full of manufacturers, depending much on the master-manufacturers of *Tiverton*.

Before we leave *Devonshire*, it will not be amiss to take notice of *Lundy island*, which is part of the county, and, tho' 50 miles from *Devonshire*, north-westward, is much more remote from any other continent. 'Tis but five miles long, and two broad; but so surrounded with inaccessible rocks, that there is but one small entrance into it, where two men can scarce go abreast. Tho' this island lies so far in the sea, it has the advantage of several springs of fresh water.

This island has been lately purchased by Sir *John Borlase Warren*, member in parliament for *Marlow* in *Bucks*, who has built an handsome house for himself, and several others for husbandmen and artificers; and

and it is his purpose to cultivate and render it both populous and fruitful.

The *Southams*, which lie between *Torbay* and *Exmouth*, are particularly famous for a most vinous and strong-bodied cyder, that sells on the spot for as much as most foreign wines. To the various manufactures of wool, and to the most valuable manufactures of flax, and that of lace, for which the inhabitants of *Devon* have been long conspicuous, they have lately added that of tapestry and carpets at *Axminster*, exquisitely beautiful in their kind; and tho' hitherto those rich pieces of furniture are very expensive, as the best manufactures must be when first introduced, from the difficulty of getting plenty of experienced workmen, yet they bid fair, in due time, for a general reception, which will enable them to give bread to a multitude of people of both sexes, and of all ages, as well as in various ways. Besides this and their fisheries, which are considerable, and many other articles, the people of *Devonshire* have great resources in their mines of iron, tin, and lead; which last is exceedingly rich in silver.

With the town of *Tiverton* we leave the county of *Devon*, and, entering *Somersetshire*, have a view of a different country from *Devonshire*: For at *Wellington*, the first town we came to in *Somersetshire*, tho' partly employed in manufacturing too, we were immediately surrounded with beggars, to such a degree, that we had some difficulty to keep them from under our horses heels. I was astonished at such a sight, in a country where the people were so generally full of work; for in *Cornwall*, where there are hardly any manufactures, and abundance of poor, we never found any like this.

Wellington is only remarkable for having been the place of residence and burial of the Lord Chief Justice

16 SOMERSETSHIRE.

tice *Popham*, in the reigns of Queen *Elizabeth* and King *James I.*

From *Wellington* we came to *Taunton*, leaving *Blackdown* hills on our right, and *Ilminster* behind them southward, a market-town, famed for its very good church, and a stately monument erected in it to *Nicholas Wadham*, and *Dorothy* his wife, founders of *Wadham* college, *Oxen*.

Near *Taunton* lies that rich track of ground, vulgarly called *Taunton-Dean*: This large, wealthy, and very populous town, takes its name from the river *Tone*, whereon it is situated. One of the chief manufacturers here told us, that there was at that time so good a trade in the town, that they had 1100 looms going for the weaving of sagathies, duroys, and such kind of stuffs; and that not one of these looms wanted work. He added, that there was not a child in the town, or in the villages round it, of above five years old, but, if it was not neglected by its parents, and untaught, could earn its own bread. This was what I never met with in any other place in *England*, except at *Colchester* in *Essex*. However, I took particular notice, that I saw more children here without shoes and stockings, than any where else; and particularly the turnpike-man in the Town-street, who was a shoemaker, laid down his work, and came out to open the gate with white legs and feet.

There are two large parish-churches in *Taunton*, and two or three meeting-houses, one of which is said to be the largest in the county. They suffered much in the Duke of *Monmouth's* rebellion, but paid King *James* home for the cruelty exercised by *Jesuits* among them: For when the Prince of *Orange* arrived, the whole town joined him, with so universal a joy, that it was thought, if he had wanted it, he might have raised a little army there, and in the adjacent parts of the country.

This is by far the greatest town in all this part of the

the country, and is governed by a mayor, recorder, a justice of the peace, two aldermen, twenty-four capital burgesses, a town-clerk, &c. There are also six gentlemen, justices of the peace at large, who may act within the borough. The mayor and aldermen are chosen yearly out of the burgesses.

About two miles from *Taunton* is the seat of Colonel *Bamfylde*, whose gardens can boast a richness of scenery peculiar almost to themselves; a part whereof is a water-fall, esteemed by many almost equal to that of *Tivoli* in *Italy*, so much celebrated by travellers, and so continually the subject of the painter's art.

From *Taunton* we went north, to take a view of the coast. *Exmore*, of which mention was made above, where the river *Ex* rises, lies in the way, part of it in this county, and extending to the sea-side: It gives, indeed, but a melancholy view, being a vast track of barren and desolate land; yet on the coast there are some very good sea-ports.

Porlock, on the utmost extent of the county, has but a small harbour; nor has it any thing of trade, though heretofore a town of some note.

But *Minehead*, the safest harbour on this side, is a fine port: No ship is so big, but it may come in; and no weather so bad, but the ships are safe when they are in: And they told me, that in the great storm, anno 1703, when the ships were blown on shore, wrecked, and lost, in every harbour of the county, they suffered little or no damage in this.

The trade of this town lies chiefly with *Ireland*, and this was, for many years, the chief port in these parts, where wool from *Ireland* was allowed to be imported; but that liberty is since enlarged to several other ports, by act of parliament.

The town returns two members to parliament. It is well built, full of rich merchants, and has some trade also to *Virginia*, and the *West-Indies*. They correspond

correspond much with the merchants of *Barnstaple* and *Bristol*, in their foreign trade. *Minehead* is governed by two constables, chosen yearly, at a court-leet held by the lord of the manor.

From hence the coast bears back east to *Watchet*, a small port of late years, tho' formerly much more considerable; for it had given place to *Minehead*, tho' now it is in a much better condition than it used to be in. It seems to me, that the town of *Minehead* rose out of the decay of the towns of *Porlock* and *Watchet*.

On this coast are vast quantities of rock, or rather pebble, which the sea, at low water, leaves uncovered; from whence the neighbouring inhabitants fetch them on shore, and burn into lime, for dressing their land; but it is more especially useful in building; as no cement whatsoever is more lasting for *jets d'eaux*, heads, piers, and other masonry, that is to lie under water; in which position it runs to a stone as hard as marble. The cliffs are stored with alabaster, which, by the wash of the sea, falls down, and is conveyed from hence to *Bristol*, and other places on this shore, in great plenty. Neither should it be omitted, that the inhabitants burn great quantities of sea-weed, to supply the glass-makers at *Bristol*.

Walking on the beach near *Watchet*, I discovered among the large gravel great numbers of stones, fluted in imitation of the shells of fishes of all kinds. Many of the flat kind are double, and curiously tailed one in another, which may, by a violent stroke, be separated: Some I have seen as broad as a pewter-dish, and again others no bigger than a pepper-corn; but in all of them the flutings are regular; some like the escalop, in rays from a centre; others like the periwinkle, in spiral lines: In these, and all other forms, they lie here in great plenty.

Quantock is an high down in the neighbourhood; from whence, besides the two little islands called the

Steep

S O M E R S E T S H I R E. 19

Steep Holms and the *Flat Holms*, and an extensive view of the channel, I had a fine distinct prospect of the *Welsh* coast, for many leagues in length.

From hence the winding shore brings us to *Bridgwater*: This is an ancient and very considerable town and port. It stands at the mouth of the river *Parrot*, or *Perrot*, which comes from the south, after having received the river *Tone* from the west, which is made navigable up to within a few miles of *Taunton* by a very fine new channel, cut at the expence of the people of *Taunton*, and which, by the navigation of it, is infinitely advantageous to that town, and well worth all their expence; first, by bringing up coals, which are brought from *Swansey* in *Wales* by sea to *Bridgwater*, and thence by barges up this river to *Taunton*; next, for bringing all heavy goods and commodities from *Bristol*; such as iron, lead, oil, wine, hemp, flax, pitch, tar, grocery, dye-stuffs, and the like.

This town of *Bridgwater* sends two members to parliament. It is a populous, trading town, well built, and as well inhabited; having many families of good fashion dwelling in it, besides merchants. The famous Admiral *Blake*, who under the commonwealth so much exalted the glory of the *English* maritime force, was a native of this town. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, two aldermen, who are justices of the peace, and twenty-four common-council men. There is also a town-clerk, a clerk of the market, a water-bailiff, and two serjeants at mace. Out of the common-council men are annually chosen two bailiffs, who are invested with a power equal to that of sheriff, as the sheriffs of the county cannot send any process into the borough. The revenues of the corporation are valued at 1000*l.* a year, and its freemen are free of all the ports of *England* and *Ireland*, except *London* and *Dublin*.

This town was regularly fortified in the late civil wars,

wars, and sustained more than one siege. The situation of it renders it easy to be fortified, the river and haven forming the greater part of the circumference. Over the river they have a very good bridge of stone; and the tide rises here, at high-water, near six fathoms, and sometimes flows in with such impetuosity, that it comes two fathoms deep at a time; and when it does so, unawares, it often occasions great damage to ships, driving them foul of one another, and frequently oversets them. This sudden rage of the tide is called the *Boar*, and is frequent in all the rivers of this channel, especially in the *Severn*: 'Tis also known in the north, particularly in the *Trent* and the *Ouse*, at their entrance into the *Humber*, at *Bristol*, and in several other places.

There is in *Bridgwater*, besides a very large church, a fine meeting-house, in which it is remarkable, that they have an advanced seat for the mayor and aldermen, when any of the magistrates shall be of their communion, as sometimes has happened.

About six miles from this place is *Enmore Castle*, the seat of *Lord Egmont*, and built by the father of the present nobleman, in the form of the old castles; which, amid the rivalships, animosities, and dangers of the feudal times, were the habitation of every potent baron. It is surrounded by a moat, approached by a *Draw-bridge*, and possesses the minutest part of that species of fortification which was impregnable before the art of making powder and the use of artillery were known. On this account it deserves the attention, and will reward the curiosity of the inquisitive traveller.

From *Bridgwater* is a road to *Bristol*, which they call the *Lower-way*; the *Upper-way*, which is the more frequented road, being over *Mendip* hills. This lower-way is not always passable, being subject to floods and dangerous inundations. All this part of the country, viz. between *Bridgwater* and the sea, and

and on northward upon the coast, lies low, and is wholly employed in feeding of black cattle, which they bring out of the west part of *Devon*, and the neighbouring borders of *Cornwall*, where the finest are bred: for as to those few bred in these low lands, they are very heavy, sluggish, and unshapely; and the beef soft and spongy, such as they seldom or never drive to *London* markets. Indeed, they breed a great many colts; but then they too must be transplanted very young, into a dry, healthy soil; for it is very difficult to find an horse of their own breed fit for any thing but a drudge. The moors, or marsh-grounds, which are also employed in the same way, extend themselves up the rivers *Perrot* and *Ivil*, into the heart of the county; of which in its place.

Brent Knowle is a rising hill in the flat country, the midway between *Bridgwater* and *Axbridge*; commands a prospect over the mouth of the *Severn*, and the county of *Monmouth*, into *Glamorganshire*, west; over *Mendip-hills*, and beyond them, north; a full prospect of *Wells* and *Glastonbury*, and far beyond them, east; and *Bridgwater* and *Hants* towards the south.

This low part, between *Bridgwater* and *Bristol*, suffered exceedingly in that terrible inundation of the sea, which was occasioned by the great storm, anno 1703, and the country-people have set up marks upon their houses and trees, with this note upon them, *Thus high the waters came in the great storm; Thus far the great tide flowed up in the last violent tempest*; and the like.

In one place they shewed us where a ship was driven upon the shore, several hundred yards from the ordinary high-water mark, and left upon dry land.

As the low part is thus occupied in grazing and feeding cattle, so all the rest of this large extended county is employed in the woollen manufacture, and in the best and most profitable part of it.

22 SOMERSETSHIRE.

They export vast quantities of their cloths to all parts of *Europe*; and it is so very considerable a trade, and of so vast an advantage to *England*, in maintaining and supporting so many poor families, and making so many rich ones, that it is almost impossible to give a just description of it. But I shall add a little more concerning this county; and upon my entering into the north-west and west parts of *Wiltshire*, where the centre of this prodigy of a trade is, I shall sum it all up together, and shew you the extent of land which it spreads itself upon; and then give you some idea, as well of the vast numbers of people who are sustained, as of those who are enriched by it.

But I must first go back a little while into *Somersetshire*: The northern part of the county I did not visit in this journey, which, as I hinted before, is only a return from my long travel to the *Land's-end*: In omitting this part, I, of course, leave the two cities of *Bristol* and *Bath*, and that high part of the county called *Mendip-hill*, to my next western journey, which will include all the counties due west from *London*: for these now spoken of, tho' ordinarily called the west country, are rather south-west than west.

In that part of the country which lies southward of *Taunton* and *Bridgwater*, is *Langport*, a well frequented market-town, on the river *Parr*, which is navigable for barges to *Bristol*, and occasions a good trade here. Eels are exceeding cheap and plentiful here.

South Petherton is a market-town on the same river, famous, of old, for the palace of King *Ina*, but now of no other note than for an annual fair, which lasts five days, in *June*.

Ivelchester is an ancient borough-town, governed by two bailiffs and twelve burgesses, who are lords of the manor, and, as its ruins shew, was formerly very large;

large; and encompassed with a double wall, and had four churches. It has now a good bridge over the *Wel*, and sends two members to parliament.

Somerton is a good market-town, governed by a bailiff chosen by the inhabitants; and, some say, the county takes its name from it. It was anciently very noted, and had a strong castle, in which *John King of France* was prisoner. Here is a fair which is held between *Palm-Sunday* and the middle of *June*.

Not far from this place is *Pynsent*, the seat of the Earl of *Chatham*, and bequeathed to him by the late Sir *William Pynsent*, Baronet, without any personal knowledge of the noble Lord, but as a reward for the services he had done his country. It is a very handsome house, and in a very noble situation. The place has received very great improvements from its present possessor, who, among other things, has erected a column to the memory of the late Baronet, which not only adds to the beauty of *Pynsent*, but forms a noble object for all the adjacent country to a very great extent.

Milbourn lies on the edge of *Dorsetshire*: It is very ancient, and returns two members to parliament. It is governed by nine capital bailiffs; the houses are detached from one another in an irregular manner.

Camalet is a noted place, situated on the highest ground in this county, on the edge of *Dorsetshire*: its vulgar name is *Cadbury-castle*, from the village of *North Cadbury*, wherein it stands. Hereabouts rise the rivers of *Somersetshire*, which run into the *Severn* sea westward; and that in *Dorset*, which goes eastward, thro' *Sturminster*, into the southern ocean. It is a noble fortification of the *Romans*. The prospect is woody, and very pleasant; here-and-there lofty and steep hillocks. *Roman* coins, in great plenty, have been found here, and in all the country round. The entrance is guarded with six or seven ditches. On the north side, in the fourth ditch, is a never-failing spring, called *King Arthur's Well*; over it they have dug

dug up square stones, door-jambs with hinges, and say there are subterraneous vaults thereabouts. The church and tower of *Cadbury* is small, but neatly built of stone.

At *Wincaunton*, an urn was lately found full of *Roman* money: Half a peck of the same coin was discovered in enclosing ground, towards *Beacon-ash*, a little above *Sutton*; as also *Pateras*, a knife, and other antiquities, now in Lord *Winchelsea's* custody; and at *Long-Leat*, in Lord *Weymouth's* library, is a piece of lead weighing 50 pounds, one foot nine inches long, two inches thick, and three and an half broad, which was found in Lord *Fitzharding's* grounds near *Bruton* in *Somersetshire*, in digging a hole to set a gate-post in, with an inscription upon it, which may be seen in *Horfeley*; and seems to shew, that the lead was worked for the service of the Emperor, and stamped with his name. Others of the same sort, but with different emperors names, have been found in various parts of the kingdom.

The road from hence to *Glastonbury* is over rocks, and heads of rivers; but that is alleviated by the many natural curiosities such places afford.

Kyneton village, for half a mile together, is naturally paved with one smooth broad rock, the whole length of the road; so that it looks like ice.

Crossing the *Fosse* road at *Lyteford*, you enter a flat moorish country, full of artificial cuts and drains. The ascent to the *Torr*, which overhangs the town of *Glastonbury*, is very difficult. Upon a narrow crest of the *Torr*, which is much the highest, the abbot built a church to St. *Michael*, of good square stone. The tower is left, tho' ruinous, and is an excellent sea-mark. It probably cost more to raise the stone to this height, than to erect the building. Half-way up is a spring: it is certainly higher than any ground within ten miles of the place. In the times of su-

perstition

perstition this great monastery held the first place for reputation of sanctity.

The abbot's lodging was a fine stone building; but could not content its late tenant, who pulled it down, and out of it built a new house, absurdly setting up the arms and cognizances of the great *Saxon* kings and princes, who were founders, and of the abbots, over his own doors and windows. Nothing is left entire but the kitchen, a judicious piece of architecture.

The church was large and magnificent; the walls of the choir are standing, 25 fathoms long, and 12 broad: There is one jamb, at the east end of the high altar, left. Hereabouts were buried King *Edgar*, and many of the *Saxon* monarchs.

Two pillars of the great middle tower are left, next the choir. On the north side is *St. Mary's* chapel, as they told me; the roof beat down by violence, and a mean wooden one in its place, thatched with stubble, to make it serve as a stable: The manger lies upon the altar and nich, where they put the holy water; *St. Edgar's* chapel is opposite to it; but there is not much left of it besides the foundations. The present work is 44 paces long, and 36 wide without: most part of the roof is wanting. Two little turrets are at the corners of the west end, and two more at the interval of four windows from thence; which seem to indicate the space of ground the first chapel was built on: The rest, between it and the church, was a kind of anti-chapel. Underneath was a vault, now full of water, the floor of the chapel being beaten down into it: it was wrought with good stones.

Here was a capacious receptacle of the dead. They have taken up many leaden coffins, and melted them into cisterns.

The roof of the chapel was finely arched with rib-work of stones: The sides of the walls are full of small pillars of *Sussex* marble, as likewise the whole

church; which was an usual way of ornamenting in those times: they are mostly beaten down. Between them the walls are painted with pictures of saints still visible. All the walls are overgrown with ivy, which is the only thing in a flourishing condition: every thing else presenting a most melancholy, tho' venerable aspect. On the south-side of the cloister was the great hall.

The townsmen bought the stones of the vaults underneath to build a sorry market-house; not discerning the benefit accruing to the town from the great concourse of strangers purposely to see this abbey, which is now its greatest trade, as formerly its only support: for it is in a decaying condition, as wholly cut off from the large revenues spent among them.

There are many other foundations of the buildings left in the great area; but, in the present hands, will soon be rooted up, and the very footsteps of them effaced, which so many ages had been erecting.

The abbot's hall, I have been told, was curiously wainscoted with oak, and painted with coats of arms in every pannel. The mortar of these buildings is very good, and great rocks of the roof of the church lie upon the ground; chiefly consisting of rubble-stone untouched by the fanatical destroyers, who chiefly work on the hewn stone of the outside, till a whole wall fall, when undermined a little.

In the town are two churches; the upper an handsome fabric, with a fine tower of good design, adorned with figures in niches. The *George inn* is an old stone building, called *The Abbot's inn*, where chiefly the pilgrims were lodged, who came strolling hither, and idling their time away for sanctity. A coat of arms, of the kings of *England*, supported by a lion and a bull, is over the gate, with many crosses. There was a bed of large timber, with imboss'd gilt pannels, which seem'd to have been the abbot's.

Four miles from *Glastonbury* lies the little city of *Wells*, where is one of the neatest cathedrals in *England*; particularly the west front of it, which is a complete draught of ancient imagery. It was built (on the site of the old one founded by King *Ina*) by *Robert de Leives* and *Joseline de Welles*. A few years ago, (in repairing the choir) were found several coins concealed behind the altar.

The close where the bishop's palace is, is very properly called so; for it is walled in, and locked up like a little fortification; it has a moat round it, and looks low, damp, and dull. The dignified clergy live in the inside of it, and the prebendaries and canons have very agreeable dwellings. Here are no less than 27 prebendaries, and 19 canons, besides a dean, a chancellor, a precentor, and three archdeacons; a number which very few cathedrals in *England* have besides. Bishop *Thomas de Bekyngton*, who sat here in 1443, built the beautiful palace-gate, and twelve stately stone houses. Bishop *Knight*, and Dean *Woolman*, made the fine arched fabric in the market-place, now called *The Cross*.

The county is the diocese, which was instituted in 909, by King *Edward* the Elder, and contains 388 parishes; and the archdeaconries are of *Wells*, *Bath*, and *Taunton*.

The city lies just at the foot of the mountains called *Mendip-hills*, and is built on a stony foundation. It was, at the request of Bishop *Welles* before mentioned, made a free borough by King *Henry II.* which was confirmed by King *John*, who granted it other privileges, which Queen *Elizabeth* ratified, and appointed that it should be governed by a mayor, recorder, seven aldermen, and sixteen common-council men. The market-days are *Wednesday* and *Saturday*. The city sends two members to parliament.

Near this city, and just under the hills, is the famous *Wokey-Hole*, the chief curiosity of which is

frequently found in all such subterraneous caverns, that the water, dropping from the roof of the vault, petrefies, and hangs in long pieces like icicles, as if it would, in time, turn into a column to support the arch.

Not far from hence is *Sedgmore*, a watry splashy place, famous for the defeat of the Duke of *Monmouth*.

In the low country, on the other side *Mendip-hills*, lies *Chedder*, a village pleasantly situated under the very ridge of the mountains: Before the village is a large green or common, on which all the cows belonging to the town feed; the ground is exceeding rich, and, as the inhabitants are cow-keepers, they take care to maintain the goodness of the soil, by agreeing to lay large quantities of dung, for manuring and enriching the land.

Several persons frequently here mix their milk together, which often weighs an hundred weight, sometimes more. In 1770, the best cheese was sold here for 7 *d.* per pound; but since that time, this commodity, like all others, has advanced in price.

Here is a deep frightful chasm in the mountain, in the hollow of which the road goes towards *Bristol*; and out of the same hollow springs a little stream, which is so rapid, that it is said to drive twelve mills, within a quarter of a mile of the spring; but it must be supposed to fetch some winding reaches in the way, otherwise there would not be room for twelve mills to stand, and have a sufficient head of water to each, within so small a space of ground. The water of this spring grows quickly into a river, which runs down into the marshes, and joins another little river called *Axe*, about *Axbridge*, and thence into the *Bristol* channel, or *Severn* sea.

I must now turn east, and south-east; for I resolved not to go up the hills of *Mendip* at all, this journey, leaving that part to another tour.

I come

I come now to that part of the county which joins to *Wiltshire*, which I reserved, in particular, to this place, in order to give some account of the broad-cloth manufacture, which I several times mentioned before, and which is carried on here, to such a degree, as to deserve a place in all the descriptions or histories which shall be given of this country.

As the east and south parts of *Wiltshire* are all hilly, spreading themselves far and wide in plains, and grassy downs, for breeding and feeding vast flocks of sheep; and as the west and north parts of *Somersetshire* are, on the contrary, low and marshy, or moorish, for feeding and breeding of black cattle and horses, or for lead mines, &c. so all the south-west part of *Wiltshire*, and the east part of *Somersetshire*, are low and flat, being a rich, enclosed country, full of rivers and towns, and infinitely populous; inso-much that some of the market-towns are equal to cities in bigness, and superior to many of them in numbers of people.

This low flat country contains part of the three counties of *Somerset*, *Wilts*, and *Gloucester*; and that the extent of it may be the easier understood by those who know any thing of the situation of the country, it reaches from *Cirencester* in the north, to *Shireborn*, on the edge of *Dorsetshire*, south; and from the *Devizes* east, to *Bristol* west; which may take in about 50 miles in length, where longest, and 20 in breadth, where narrowest.

In this extent of country, we have the following market-towns, which are principally employed in the clothing trade, that is to say, in that part of it which I am now speaking of; namely, fine medley or mixed cloths, such as are usually worn in *England* by the better sort of people, and also exported in great quantities to *Holland*, *Hamburgh*, *Sweden*, *Denmark*, *Spain*, *Italy*, &c. The principal clothing towns, in this part of the country, are these:

In SOMERSETSHIRE. *Frome, Pensford, Philips-Norton, Bruton, Shepton-Mallet, Castle-Carey, and Wincanton.*

In WILTSHIRE. *Malsbury, Castlecomb, Chippenham, Caln, Devizes, Bradford, Trowbridge, Westbury, Warminster, and Mere.*

In DORSETSHIRE. *Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Bminster, Bere, Sturminster, and Shireborn.*

In GLOUCESTERSHIRE. *Cirencester, Tetbury, Marshfield, Mincing-Hampton, and Fairford.*

These towns, as they stand thin, and at considerable distances from one another (for, except the two towns of *Bradford* and *Trowbridge*, the others stand at an unusual distance) are interspersed with a very great number of villages, hamlets, and scattered houses; in which, generally speaking, the spinning work of all this manufacture is performed by the poor people; the master-clothiers, who generally live in the greater towns, sending out the wool weekly to their houses, by their servants and horses; and, at the same time, bringing back the yarn that they have spun and finished, which then is fitted for the loom.

Its trade is wholly clothing, and the cloths they make are, generally speaking, all conveyed to *London*, where *Blackwell-hall* is their market.

The *Devizes*, a borough-town, is a large and important town, and full of wealthy clothiers; but some years ago it run pretty much into the drugget-making trade; a business, which made some invasion upon that of the broad-cloth; great quantities of druggets being worn in, as well as exported from *England*, instead of broad-cloth; but not so much now as they used to be: And this was much the same, as to the trade; for as it was all a woollen manufacture, and the druggets might properly be called cloth, tho' narrow, and of a different make,

so the makers are all called clothiers. This town sends two members to parliament.

It may not be improper to mention what may escape the notice of the traveller, as there is little in this town to attract it, which is an extraordinary event that happened in the market-place but a few years ago, and was ordered by the corporation to be recorded by an inscription on the very spot where this extraordinary circumstance happened. It is as follows: A woman, having purchased some commodities in the market, on the money being demanded, uttered a wish, that *God would strike her dead that moment, if she had not paid it*; which she had no sooner uttered, than she fell dead on the spot, and the money was found in her clenched hand.

The river *Avon*, a noble and large fresh river, branching itself into many parts, and receiving almost all the rivers on that side of the hills, waters this whole fruitful vale: And the water of this river seems particularly qualified for, dying the best colours, and for fulling and dressing the cloth; so that the clothiers generally plant themselves upon this river, but especially the dyers; as at *Trowbridge* and *Bradford*, which are the two most eminent clothing towns in that part of the vale for the making fine *Spanish* cloths, and for the nicest mixtures.

From these towns, south to *Westbury* and *Warminster*, the same trade continues, and the finest medley *Spanish* cloths are made in this part.

Notwithstanding the whole country is thus busied in the broad-cloth manufacture, I must not omit to mention, that here is a very great application to another branch or two of trade; viz. the supplying the city of *London* with provisions: tho' it is true, that the general employment of the people in all this county is in the woollen manufacture; yet, as the spinning is generally the work of the women and children, and the land is here exceeding rich and fertile;

tile ; To it cannot be supposed, but that here are farmers in great numbers, whose business it is to cultivate the land and supply the rest of the inhabitants with provisions ; and this they do so well, that notwithstanding the county is exceeding populous, yet provisions of all sorts are cheap, the quantity very great, and a considerable overplus sent every day to *London*.

All the lower part of this county, and also of *Gloucestershire* adjoining, is full of large feeding farms, which we call dairies ; and the cheese they make is excellent, and is eaten newer than that from *Cheshire*. Of this a vast quantity is every week sent up to *London*, where, tho' it is called *Gloucestershire* cheese, yet the greatest part of it comes from *Wiltshire*; the *Gloucestershire* cheese being more generally carried to *Bristol* and *Bath*, where a very great quantity is consumed as well by the inhabitants of those two populous cities, as in exportation to our *West-India* colonies, and other places ; whereas this *Wiltshire* cheese is carried to the river of *Thames*, which runs through part of the county, by land-carriage, and so by barges to *London*.

Again, in the spring of the year, they make a vast quantity of that we call green or new cheese, which is a thin and very soft cheese, resembling cream cheeses, but somewhat thicker : these are so generally liked in *London*, that all the low rich lands in this county are hardly enough to supply the market : but then this holds for little more than the two first summer months of the year.

Besides this, the farmers in *Wiltshire*, and the part of *Gloucestershire* adjoining, send great quantities of bacon up to *London*, which is esteemed the best bacon in *England*, *Hampshire* only excepted. This bacon is raised here, by their great dairies, as the hogs are fed with the vast quantities of whey, and skimmed milk, which the farmers must otherwise have thrown away.

But

But this is not all : for as the north part of *Wiltshire*, as well the downs as the vales, border upon the river *Thames*, and in some places come up even to the banks of it ; so most of that part of the county being arable land, they sow a very great quantity of barley, which is carried to the markets at *Abingdon*, *Farringdon*, and such places ; where it is made into malt, and carried to *London*. This employs all the hill country from above *Malmesbury* to *Marlborough*, and on the side of the *Vale of White-horse*, as it is called, which is in *Berkshire*, and the hills adjoining ; a track of fertile ground, which furnishes a prodigious quantity of barley.

Thus *Wiltshire* helps to supply *London* with cheese, bacon, and malt, three very considerable articles, besides that vast manufacture of fine *Spanish* cloths, of which I have said so much ; and I may, without partiality, say, that it is thereby rendered one of the most important counties in *England* to the public wealth of the kingdom. The bare product is in itself prodigiously great ; the downs are an inexhausted storehouse of wool, and of corn ; and the valley, or low part of it, is the like for cheese and bacon.

I have not mentioned the clothing towns other than as they contribute to that trade ; I shall now proceed to say something of the towns themselves, except those in *Gloucestershire*, of which I shall speak in my next letter, as I fall down westward.

Shepton-Mallet, *Castle-Carey*, *Wincaunton*, and *Bruton*, lie to the southward of *Wells*, and have nothing remarkable in them, except the last, which lies on the river *Brews*. It has a fine church, a good free-school, a stately alms-house, and the ruins of a priory ; and, beside the clothing trade, is famous for stockings.

Freme and *Philips-Norton* lie in the east part of *Somersetshire*.

marsetshire, upon the borders of *Wilt*s; the first is near the forest of *Selwood*, and I have already mentioned it; the last is a good market-town, and has two annual fairs, one reputed, for a one-day fair, as great as any in *England*.

Pensford is a small market-town, and lies north-west towards *Bristol*.

Malmesbury, a borough town, is a very ancient one, and, it is said, was built by a *British* prince, called *Caer Bladdon*. It was formerly defended by walls, and a large strong castle, which was razed afterward, to enlarge the abbey, which was very famous, and the greatest in *Wiltshire*: the abbot sat in parliament. Here king *Athelstane* was buried, and they still shew his tomb. Vast piles of buildings were pulled down at the dissolution; but the church of the abbey was saved, a great part of which still remains, and is used as the parish-church. It is a corporation governed by a *justice*, who is an annual magistrate, and called *The Alderman*. It has a good market weekly. The town is neat, and lies on the river *Avon*. It is also famous for being the birth-place of *William of Malmesbury*, the historian, and of that great scholar, philosopher, and mathematician, *Hobbes*, &c. It sends two members to parliament.

Near this town, southward, on the same river, lies the village of *Dantsey*, which, though but an obscure place, has given title of honour to many eminent persons, and, among the rest, to *Henry Danvers*, created baron of this place by King *James I.* though by King *Charles I.* made earl of *Danby*. He had distinguished himself in Queen *Elizabeth's Irish wars*, was as good as he was great, and died with glory; but his brother and heir, having sat, ungratefully, a judge on that very king who made his brother earl, was, at the restoration, attainted of high treason, and this his manor of *Dantsey* given to *James* then duke

of *York*; who settled it, in dowry, on his second consort. On his abdication, it became a second time forfeited; and King *William* conferred it on *Charles* lord *Mordaunt*, late earl of *Peterborough* and *Monmouth*, in whose family it still remains. But as there are some other things more than ordinarily particular, relating to this manor, I shall enlarge a little upon it.

The whole parish of *Dantsey* consists of this manor only; and not a foot of ground in it belongs to any other person: it is altogether pasture, and, indeed, very rich. The inhabitants, who are all tenants of the manor, make excellent cheese, not at all inferior to that of *Cheddar*, which is the only commodity in the place; for the late lord would not permit the grounds to be plowed up; and, I believe, there is not an acre of arable land in the parish, though the tenants have offered a considerable advance of rent, for liberty to break up the ground; which, indeed, seems to want it, and would be much bettered by the plough: nor would his lordship, for some years before his death, renew a lease upon it, either by lease or copyhold, except as many of the last as would keep up the homage, and the rights of the manor: and the reason of this was, not only to get a clear rack-rent estate in it, but to prevent the cheats and impositions which the copyhold tenants of the manor put upon their lord. For as every widow has her life in her husband's copyhold after his death, if she continues sole and continent, it is a very common thing there for an old man on his death-bed to marry a young woman, who privately contracts to give part of the profits of the copyhold, or some consideration for it, to the husband's relations; and not seldom selects, for a bedfellow for herself, one of her favourite men-servants.

The abuse which accrued from granting leases for lives is this; that whereas a person takes a lease for

three lives, viz. his own, his wife's, and his son *John's*; to defraud the lord of the manor, he names all his sons *John*: so that, as long as any of the sons live, *John* in the lease never dies.

By these frauds, the earl, who was none of the best economists, and lived remote from this place, suffered considerably, though he could not find out how; but frequently complained, That his Lessees, and his copyhold-widows, were very long-lived; and, in an humourous way, used to recommend his manor of *Dantsey* to all such purchasers as were apprehensive of dying.

As all in the parish were his tenants, and had an interest in the fraud, they combined against him, so that he could get no intelligence of it; and though his lordship enjoyed the manor from the time of the revolution, yet, by reason of its being then full-estated, that is, all lett out upon lives then actually subsisting, and continued by the above-mentioned frauds, his lordship received no great benefit out of it till some few years before his death; when he came to a resolution not to renew, though, when all the lives drop in, this manor will, at a rack-rent, amount to, at least, 3000 *l.* a year.

There is a large old mansion-house here, lying just on the river, with gardens formed after the manner of those at *Parsons-green*; but it is not a kindly place for ripening fruit, and the grounds lie very low and splashy, being all of a stiff clay, and yet very good pasture.

Here is also a fine park, well timbered, but without deer.

His lordship had once a design to improve this mansion-house and estate, and resided here in 1705, when he was called to court, and sent to command the Queen's forces in *Spain*, where his conduct, and great services to his country, are too well known, to need mentioning here.

Though

Though this place is often overflowed with water, yet there is none good, either for brewing or washing; or any spring of sweet water.

Here is a spring of a chalybeat kind, which would turn to good account, were it not in such a distant, and an almost inaccessible part of the country, occasioned by bad roads.

Here is a good neat church, with a high, square tower, raised at the expence of one of the lords of *Dantsey*, probably the afore-mentioned *Henry*, who lies buried here under a very large magnificent tomb. Here likewise is interred lieutenant-general *Lewis Mordaunt*, a brother of the late earl.

Chippenham is a corporate good market-town, likewise on the river *Avon*, over which it has a bridge of 16 arches. It was famous for the residence and resort of many of the *West-Saxon* Kings, particularly *Alfred*. Here is a magnificent church, and a charity-school for 24 boys. This town is governed by a bailiff and 12 burgeses, and sends two members to parliament.

Bradford is a market-town, and has a bridge over the *Avon*. It is well-built of stone, and lies on the side of an hill.

Trowbridge is an ancient market-town, and had formerly a castle of seven towers, but long since destroyed. The court of the duchy of *Lancaster*, for this county, is annually held here, about *Michaelmas*.

Westbury is a little borough market-town, but was formerly of great note; and even now returns two members to parliament. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, and 12 aldermen or burgeses. Some quantities of *Roman* coins have been found here.

— *Warminster* is noted for the prodigious quantity of corn which is sold in it every market-day. It is a populous place, with very good inns, and is the greatest malt-town in the west of *England*. Upon the downs,
near

near this town, are two ancient camps, supposed to be *Danish*.

About five miles from *Warminster* is *Long Leate*, the noble seat of lord *Weymouth*. It is an ancient, but most magnificent structure, and, for the size and number of apartments, is equal perhaps to any house in *England*. This place has been greatly improved by the modernizing hand of the celebrated Mr. *Browne*. The park is very extensive, and well planted; the water properly managed, and the whole forms a scene of beauty and magnificence.

Mere, which in the old *Saxon* signifies *Boundary*, as this place seems to be on the borders of *Wilts*, *Somerset*, and *Dorset*, is but a village, and yet gives name to the hundred where it stands. It has neither fair nor market in it; but had, anciently, a castle. Not far from this place is an old *Danish* camp called *Whitehole-hill*.

A little south-east of *Mere* lies *Hindon*, a small borough and market-town, which sends two members to parliament. At *Fonthill*, near this town, *William Beckford*, Esq; an alderman, and twice lord mayor of *London*, built a fine seat, which was burnt down on *Feb. 12, 1755*, when near finished; but is now rebuilt very magnificently. The whole loss was computed at 30,000 *l.* only six of which were insured.

It is said, that when the news was brought to this gentleman, whose character is singular, he said nothing, but took out his pocket-book, and being asked what he was doing, answered, with philosophic indifference, "I am reckoning how much it will cost me to rebuild."

North-east of *Hindon* stands *Heightsbury*, a town formerly noted for an hospital; and still for sending two members to parliament.

Lavington is also a little more north-east, a very indifferent market-town.

The

The *Devizes*, where we entered this county, is excellently situated, about two miles from the bottom of the hills, which keep off the eastern winds, and in a rich soil. Under the hill, at *Runway*, is an excellent spring, which the inhabitants had not, when I was there last, found means to convey thither, tho' it runs but a little way off the town, in which they want water. It is a very large old town, consisting chiefly of two long parallel streets, the houses mostly of timber, but of a very good model. The inhabitants value themselves for being tenants to the King, and for one of the best weekly markets in *England*. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, 11 masters, and 36 common-council-men. The castle was originally *Roman*, judiciously seated upon a natural fortification; but in after-times made, in a manner, impregnable by *Roger*, a bishop of *Salisbury*, though in 1751 the materials were all gone; and two wind-mills have been erected in their stead. Here are three churches. The choir of *St. Mary's* is of a very old model, as are the steeple, choir, and both wings of *St. John's*, to which additions have been made, and new wide windows, with pointed arches, in the room of the ancient, narrow, semicircular ones.

Just out of town is a pretty plain called *the Green*, with another handsome church and steeple, suburbs to the old town. Here *William Cadby*, a gardener, dug up his collection of gods, which he carried about for a shew. They were found in a garden, in a cavity, inclosed with *Roman* brick. The *Venus* is of a good design; and the *Vestal Virgin*, as they call it, a fragment of *Corinthian* brass, and of curious workmanship. *Vulcan* is as lame as if made at a forge. He had also several coins found thereabouts, and a brass *Roman* key, which my lord *Winchelsea* bought. *Roman* antiquities are discovered here every day. The same nobleman has a brass *Probus*; on the reverse

verse *Victoria Germ.* with a trophy. A great number of such reliques is to be met with all round the country.

Calne is a little town, situate on a stony hill, and very ancient; and is supposed to have been one of the seats of the *West-Saxon* Kings. It is a borough town, has a neat church, and a good weekly market. A great many *Roman* coins were dug up here formerly. Here was, likewise, anciently, an hospital of *Black Canons*. Very near to this town is *Bow Wood*, the seat of the earl of *Shelburne*, who is now engaged in very great enlargements of his park and other splendid improvements.

I am now come into the road to *Marlborough*. On the downs, about two or three miles from the town, are abundance of stones, lying scattered about the plain, some whereof are very large, and appear to be nearly of the same kind with those of *Stone-henge*, and some larger. They are called by the country-people the *Grey Wethers*; and it must be confessed, that they look not unlike sheep straggling upon the downs, on a transient and distant view, as travellers pass. These *Grey Wethers*, on a more curious inspection, are found to be a sort of white marble, and lie upon the surface of the ground in infinite numbers, and of all dimensions. They are loose, detached from any rock.

Marlborough, so called from its hills of chalk, which anciently was called *Marl*, is the *Cunetia* (from *Kennet*) of the *Romans*; but from the coming of the *Saxons* to the conquest, there is no mention of it. It is governed by a mayor, aldermen, and burgesses; is well built, and sends two members to parliament, and consists chiefly of one broad and strait street. To the south are some relics of a priory; the gate-house still remaining. On the north, the chapel of another religious house remains, now turned into a dwelling-house. The seat of the late earl of *Hertford*,

ford, afterwards duke of *Somerset*, is become one of the most magnificent houses of entertainment in *England*: it was the site of the *Roman Castrum*; for there they find foundations, and *Roman* coins; and towards the river, without the garden-walls, one angle of it very manifestly remains, and the rampart and ditch entire. The road going over the ditch, cuts it off from the present castle. The ditch is still 20 feet wide, in some parts. The mount, so much noted, was the keep of the castle; and was made into a pretty spiral walk, on the top of which is an octagonal summer-house, from whence you have a pleasant view over the town and country. The town has, at present, a pretty good shop-keeping trade, but not much of the manufacturing part. The river *Kennet*, some years ago made navigable by act of parliament, rises just by this town: from whence running to *Hungerford* and *Newbury*, it becomes a large stream, and, passing by *Reading*, runs into the *Thames* near that town. This river is famous for crayfish which they help travellers to at *Newbury*.

At *Abury*, near *Marlborough* downs, are to be seen the stupendous remains of a *Druid* temple; being a collection of monstrous stones, of nearly the like nature with those of *Stone-benge*, and brought together from the downs for the same religious purposes.

At *Badmington* in *Wiltshire* have been found nine caves, all of a row, but of different dimensions, the least of them four feet wide, some nine or ten feet long, two long stones being set upon the sides, and the top covered with broad stones. Spurs, pieces of armour, and the like, have been found in these caves; which gives ground to believe, that they were tombs of some ancient warriors, *Romans*, *Saxons*, or *Danes*.

In our way from *Marlborough* to *Newbury*, we mounted a chalky hill (of which sort is much of the soil of *Wilts*;) on the top of which we entered into *Savernack* forest, which belonged to the late earl of *Ailesbury*;

Ailesbury; and is almost the only privileged ground of hunting, of that denomination, possessed by a subject. It is in circumference about 12 miles, plentifully stocked with deer of a large size, and rendered very pleasant and delightful by the many walks and vistas lately cut and levelled through the several coppices and woods with which it abounds; through one of which we have a view of the seat, (now belonging to his nephew lord *Bruce*) at about two miles distance, called *Tottenham*, from a park of that name, in which it is situate, contiguous to the forest.

It is a stately edifice, erected on the same spot of ground where stood an ancient palace, destroyed by fire, of the marquis of *Hertford*, afterwards duke of *Somerset*, so justly celebrated for his steady adherence and powerful assistance to the royal cause, during the whole course of the civil wars, from whom the earl of *Ailesbury* was descended, by his mother the lady *Elizabeth*, sister and niece of the two last dukes of *Somerset*, of the elder line.

To give you some idea of the grandeur and magnificence of the structure, it will be sufficient to observe, that it was begun, carried on, and finished, after the model, and under the direction, of the late earl of *Burlington*, who, to the strength and convenience of the *English* architecture, has added the elegance and politeness of the *Italian* taste.

The house has four towers, and four fronts, each of them diversly beautified and adorned; to which are now added four wings, wherein are rooms of state, a noble and capacious room for a library, containing a judicious and large collection of several thousand books in all languages, but especially the modern.

The beauty and delightfulness of the buildings are much augmented by the large canals, the spacious and well planted walks which surround it; one of which,

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which, leading to the *London* road, extends two miles in length.

About the same distance from hence on the opposite side, are to be seen the remains of a large house, called *Wolf Hall*, the seat of Sir *John Seymour*, father of the unfortunate protector; of which no more is standing than suffices for a farm-house. Here King *Henry VIII.* as tradition goes, celebrated his nuptials with the lady *Jane Seymour*, and kept his wedding-dinner in a very large barn, hung with tapestry on the occasion: for confirmation of which they shew you, in the walls thereof, some tenter hooks, with small pieces of tapestry fastened to them; and between this place and *Tottenham* there is a walk, with old trees on each side, still known by the name of King *Harry's walk*.

From hence, continuing our course easterly, we came to a borough town, called *Great Bedwin*, which sends two members to parliament. It is an old corporation, and gave birth to the famous physician Dr. *T. Willis*. *Castle-Copse*, half a mile from the town south-east, was probably the *Roman* castle; and *Havisdike* a camp of that people.

The church is large and capacious, in which are some ancient monuments; particularly one of a *Knight Templar*, called *Adam of Scott*, from a manor of that name in the parish, with an inscription not legible, and another of the above-mentioned Sir *John Seymour*, father of the protector; wherein we have an account of the names of all his children, with their several intermarriages and deaths. The church is very strongly built with flint, and a cement near as hard as themselves, in form of a cross; in the center of which is erected an high tower, containing a good ring of six musical bells.

Moving hence towards the north-east a little, we crossed the much-famed *Wansdyke*, a work of prodigious labour and expence, and concluded, by most writers,

writers, to be a boundary of one of the kingdoms of the *Heptarchy*, probably that of the *West-Saxons*, before its enlargement by inroaching on other kingdoms. It may be traced from near *Bath*, all over the downs, to this place, where it turns its course towards the southern coasts. It is supposed, by some, to derive its name from *Woden*, one of the *Saxon* deities.

Soon after we mounted a small hill, of easy ascent, on the summit of which was erected, as historians inform us, a fortified place, the residence of *Cissa*, a viceroy of one of the *South-Saxon* Kings, from whom it derives its denomination of *Chisbury*, or *Gisbury*; who also built *Chichester*. It seems to have been strongly fortified, being surrounded with a double ditch or moat, of considerable depth and breadth, and full of water: since which time there has been a religious house here, the chapel of which is still remaining as a barn.

From hence we returned to the great *London* road, and soon arrived at a village called *Froxfield*, about seven miles from *Marlborough*; in which is an handsome and well-endowed alms-house, founded by *Sarah* Ducheſs dowager of *Somerset*, relict of *John*, the last duke of the elder branch of the noble family of *Seymours*, descended from the great duke of *Somerset*, protector of the King and kingdom during the minority of King *Edward VI.* This lady bequeathed by her will about 2000 *l.* for the building and furniture of this alms-house, and devised several manors, messuages, and farms, for the maintenance of 30 poor widows not having 20 *l.* per *Ann.* to subsist upon; one half of which are widows of clergymen, and the other of laymen; giving a preference to those of the last sort, who live on the manors so devised by her. She left in her will particular directions for the form, dimensions, and site, of the structure; and for the manner of electing, ruling, and providing

viding for the widows ; which her executors, especially Sir *William Gregory*, who chiefly took upon him the execution of the trust, punctually observed.

The building is neat and strong, in the form of a quadrangle, having one front, and a court before it, facing the road.

The same charitable lady, in order to make provision for the helpless young, as well as destitute old, also bequeathed a considerable yearly sum for the apprenticing of 10 or 12 children : in which a preference was to be given to such as were born in her manors.

We next visited *Hungerford* in *Berks*, a little market town, situate in a moorish place, remarkable only for being a great thoroughfare to *Bath* and *Bristol* ; and for plenty of trout, eels, and crayfish. It is governed by a constable, who is chosen annually, and for the time being is lord of the manor. From this town the ancient family of the barons of *Hungerford* took their name and title.

We pursued the great road, and arrived at *Newbury*, situate in a most fruitful plain, and watered by the river *Kenet*, made navigable up to the town, which carries on a very great trade in malt, &c. with *London*. It is governed by a mayor, high-steward, aldermen, and burgesses. The streets are spacious, and the market-place large, where there is much corn sold ; and an hall, for the business of the corporation stands in it.

Here is also a good charity-school, for 40 boys ; endowed with 65*l.* a year.

Near this town were two obstinate battles fought at different times, between the King's army and the parliament's ; King *Charles* being present at them both, and both were fought almost upon the same spot of ground ; the first on the 20th of *September* 1643, and the other on the 27th of *October* 1644. In the first
of

of these battles the success was doubtful, and both sides claimed the advantage: in the last, the King's army had apparently the worst of it.

Part of *Newbury* is also known by the name of *Spinham-lands*; for it arose out of the ruins of an old town called *Spina*, the remains of which now join to *Newbury*; in respect to which it was called *New Borough*, and, for shortness, *Newbury*. It is noted, among other things, for two or three excellent inns, which indeed abound all the way, between *London* and *Bath*, at every four or five miles.

This town of *Newbury* was an ancient clothing town, though now little of that business remains to it; but it still retains a manufacturing genius, and the people are generally employed in making shalloon; which, though it is generally used only for the lining of mens clothes, yet it is increased to a manufacture by itself, and is more considerable than any single manufacture of stuffs in the nation. This employs the town of *Newbury*, as also *Andover*, a town I have already described, Vol. I. and many others in different counties of *England*.

In the year 1762, the corporation of *Newbury* purchased and put up in their new town hall, the fine historical picture of the surrender of *Calais* to King *Edward III.* painted by Mr. *Pine*; for which he obtained the first premium of a hundred guineas from the society for encouraging of arts, &c. in *London*.

Here lived the famous *Jack of Newbury*, (whose family name was *Winchcombe*) the greatest clothier that ever was in *England*; having 100 looms at work in his own house. He flourished in the reign of *Henry VIII.* and marched at the head of 100 of his own men, all clothed in an uniform, and maintained by himself, to the battle of *Flodden Field*, where he behaved well. He rebuilt part of *Newbury* church, and the whole tower of it. The late lord *Bolingbroke* married the heiress of Sir *Henry Winchcombe*, descended

ed from this celebrated clothier. This is one of the two legatee towns (as they were called) in the will of the famous Mr. *Kenrick*; who, being the son of a clothier of *Newbury*, and afterwards a merchant in *London*, left 4000*l.* to *Newbury*, and 7500*l.* to *Reading*, to encourage the clothing trade, and to set the poor at work, besides other valuable gifts to the poor.

Near *Newbury*, Mr. *Andrews* has built a house in the gothic stile, and ornamented the grounds about it with much taste. The situation is on a rising ground, backed by a hill crowned with wood, out of which rises *Donnington* castle. A lawn spreads around the house, and falls to a very fine water; a stream enlarged into a river, which takes a winding easy course near a mile long, and of a considerable breadth. There are three or four islands in it, one of which is thickly planted, and affords shelter to many swans and wild fowl which frequent the water, at the same time that they add to the beauty of the place. Over the river, the country consists of corn fields, which rise agreeably. The lawn is very neat, the trees and clumps well managed, and the wood, in which the water terminates at each end, finishes the scene in a pleasing manner. There is a winding gravel walk through both the groves on the banks of the river, which open to several retired and pleasing scenes: on one spot is a pretty rustic gothic temple, built of flint, near a cascade, which the river forms by falling over a natural ridge of stones. The whole place is laid out with good taste: the house is a good one; the stair-case peculiar, but agreeable, and the library a large, handsome, and well-proportioned room. Here are likewise several pictures by some of the principal masters. *Donnington* castle, just mentioned, was anciently the seat of Sir *Geoffrey Chaucer*, father of *English* poetry. They shew us a place here, where, in his days, and
even

even down to the memory of some of the inhabitants now living, flourished a great oak, called *Chaucer's oak*, where, they tell you, he used to sit and compose his poems.

Near *Newbury* also, the late earl of *Craven* built a very stately pile of buildings, for his own dwelling, called *Hamstead Marshall*; but as it was never quite finished, so I do not understand, that his lordship ever came to live in it: and some years ago it was, by a sudden fire, burnt down to the ground. It was reported, that that lord built this magnificent palace (for such it really was) at a time when he had hopes of marrying *Madame Royale*, as she was then called, viz. the Queen of *Bohemia*, sister to King *Charles I.* who, then a widow, lived in the *English* court; but the earl being frustrated in this view, went no farther in his building. But his present lordship has rebuilt this house; and, though not in so grand a manner as the former, it is very commodious.

We went forward to the town of *Lambourn*, so called from the river which runs down and falls into the *Kenet*, near *Thatchum*. There are two places so called, and distinguished by the name of the *Upper* and *Lower*. The *Lower Lambourn* is the larger and has been a market-town ever since the reign of king *Henry III.* The river *Lambourn* is remarkable for being very low in winter, and high in summer. It goes off about *Michaelmas*; and the sooner it goes, the more plentiful, say the inhabitants, will that year be.

At *Newbury* we quitted the high road, and being desirous to see something of the north of *Berkshire* we struck up to *Illey*, which, though but an inconsiderable little town, yet has a good weekly market for sheep.

We passed north-westward to *Wantage*, the capital of an hundred so called, a town of some antiquity

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pretty good, and neat. It is noted for being the birth-place of the renowned king *Alfred*, and is watered by the *Och*. On *Sinodun* hill, in the time of the *Romans*, was a strong castle. The plough frequently, to this day, turns up *Roman* coins, and other antiquities.

From *Wantage* we advanced into the fine and fertile *Vale of Whitehorse*, which extends almost from *Farringdon* to *Abingdon*, though not in a direct line. Looking south from the *Vale*, we see a trench cut on the side of an high green hill in the shape of an horse, and not ill done. The trench is about a yard deep, and filled almost up with chalk; so that, at a distance, you see the exact shape of a *white Horse*, so large, as takes up near an acre of ground. From this figure the hill is called *Whitehorse Hill*, and the vale below takes also its name. It is said to be done in order to commemorate a signal victory; and some give it to the *Saxons*, whose device was, and still is, a white horse.

The neighbouring parish to this *Whitehorse* have a custom annually, at *Midsummer*, to go and weed it, in order to keep it in shape and colour: and, when they have done their work, they end the day in feasting and merriment. This is called, *scowering the Horse*.

Westward of this vale lies *Ashbury*, (where is a seat of lord *Craven*; the stones of which it was built being dug out of a *Danish* camp hard by,) betwixt which and *Wantage* is a very large camp on the brow of an hill: It is single-worked, and of a quadrangular form, which shews it a *Roman* work.

We arrived at *Farringdon*, noted for its pleasant situation on an hill. It has a good market weekly, and is very neat and clean. In this place may be seen the ruins of a castle, built by *Robert* earl of *Gloucester*, in King *Stephen's* reign: here was also a

priory of *Cistercian* monks. The church is large and handsome.

From hence we went partly by the forest to *Abingdon*, an handsome well built town, where the assizes and sessions, and other public meetings of the county, are commonly held. The market house is a stately edifice, built on lofty pillars. It is of most curious workmanship, and may claim a pre-eminence of most others in *England*. Over it is a large hall for the assize. The town consists of several well paved streets, which center in an open and spacious place, where the corn-market is kept. They make great quantities of malt here, and send it by barges to *London*. Here is a good free-school, and also a charity-school, founded, *anno* 1563, by *John Royse*. The corporation is governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and nine aldermen, and returns one member to parliament.

It is an ancient town, and was famed for religious houses, and particularly for one of the noblest abbeys in the kingdom, founded, as it is said, by *Heane*, nephew to *Cissa*, father to King *Ina*. *Henry I.* surname *Beauclerk*, was educated in this monastery. Here are two churches, and there was formerly a fine cross, which was destroyed in the late civil wars. Several synods have been held here.

We next came to *Wallingford*, called, by the ancient Britons, *Gwal Hen*, i. e. *Old Fort*; a place of great figure, as well in their days, and of the *Romans*, as of the *Saxons* and *Danes*; the last of whom destroyed it in 1006; but it was soon rebuilt, and esteemed a borough, in the *Confessor's* time. It has been defended by a strong castle, long since demolished. It is still a large well built town, has a good market-place and town-hall, where the assizes have been sometimes held, and a quarter-session for the borough always; has two churches standing, but one very much damaged in the civil wars, when two

others were altogether destroyed; has two weekly markets, and is governed by a mayor, burgesses, &c. and returns two members to parliament.

Leland in his *Itinerary* records, that *Richard of Wallingford*, abbot of *St. Albans*, was born here. He was a famous mathematician, and the inventor of a clock that shewed not only the course of the sun, moon, and fixed stars, but the ebbing and the flowing of the sea.

Here we crossed the *Thames* into *Oxfordshire*; and leaving *Wathington*, a little inconsiderable market-town on the left, we fell down through *Nettlebed* (likewise a town of little note) to *Henley upon Thames*, a very ancient town, the name being derived from the *British* word *Henelley*, i. e. *Old Place*. It was formerly part of the estate of the barons of *Hungerford*. It is now a corporation of great account, governed by a warden, burgesses, and other officers. It has a considerable corn and malt-market. The inhabitants are mostly maltsters, mealmen, and bargemen; who by carrying corn and timber to *London* get a handsome living, and enrich the neighbourhood. It has a good free grammar school, and also a charity-school, liberally endowed, for teaching, clothing, and apprenticing, several poor children: here is also an alms-house, but meanly endowed; for though there are not above six or seven persons in it, they have but six-pence a piece weekly for their allowance.

We returned, over a wooden bridge, cross the *Thames*, into *Berkshire*: and as *Thatchum*, *Woolhampton*, and *Theale*, which lie between *Newbury* and *Reading*, are, at present, noted only for being great thoroughfare towns, and full of inns, we went no farther back than *Reading*.

Reading is so called from the *British* word *Rhedin*, i. e. *Fern*, which formerly grew in great quantity there. It is a very large and wealthy town, hand-

somely built, the inhabitants rich, and driving a great trade: the town is situated on the river *Kennet*, but so near the *Thames*, that the largest barges which they use may come up to the town-bridge, where they have wharfs to load and unload them. Their chief trade is by this river navigation to and from *London*, though they have necessarily a great trade into the country, for the consumption of the goods which they bring by their barges from *London*; and, particularly, coals, salt, grocery-wares, tobacco, oils, and all heavy goods.

They send from hence to *London*, by these barges, great quantities of malt and meal; and these are the two principal articles of their loadings. Some of those barges are so large, that they bring 1000 or 1200 quarters of malt at a time; which, according to the ordinary computation of tonage in the freight of other vessels, is from 100 to 120 ton, dead weight.

They also send great quantities of timber from *Reading*: for *Berkshire* being a well-wooded county, especially in beech, and the river *Thames* a convenient conveyance for the timber, they transport the largest and finest of the timber to *London*, which is generally bought by the shipwrights in the river, for the building merchant ships. The like trade of timber is carried on at *Henley* above mentioned, and at *Maidenhead*; of which in its place.

Here is still a remnant of the woollen manufacture, which was once carried on in this town to a very considerable degree; and *Reading*, as well as *Newbury*, has enjoyed the legacies of Mr. *Kenrick*, to set the poor at work, and encourage the clothing trade; viz. 7500*l*.

Mr. *Camden*'s continuator says, there were once 140 master clothiers in this one town; but now they are almost all gone. During the civil wars in *England*, this town was strongly fortified; and the remains

remains of the bastions, and other works, are still to be seen.

There are three churches, *St. Mary's*, *St. Laurence's*, and *St. Giles's*, built of flint, and square stones, in the quincunx fashion, with high towers of the same. Archbishop *Laud* was born in this town : his father was a clothier. That prelate left considerable legacies to young people of this town, of both sexes.

It was formerly noted for a very famous abbey and other religious foundations. The parliament of *England* has sometimes been held in the abbey. It stood in a charming situation, and large ruins of it are still visible, built of flint : the walls which remain are about eight feet thick, though the stone that faced them is gone. What is left is so hard cemented, that the labour, in separating them, would not be answered by their use. There are many remnants of arched vaults, a good height above-ground, whereon stood, as may be presumed, the hall, lodgings, &c. The abbey gate-house is yet pretty entire.

This was built by king *Henry I.* on an old abbey, formerly erected by a *Saxon* lady. That prince was buried in it with his Queen ; but their monuments are lost in the ruins of the place, and no-where to be found.

There was a famous old castle, demolished by king *Henry II.* for being a place of refuge for king *Stephen's* party.

The empress *Maud*, daughter of *Henry I.* was also buried here ; but her monument is also lost.

The governing part of this corporation consists of a mayor, 12 aldermen, 12 burgesses, and other officers. Four fairs are annually held here, on *Candlemas-day*, *May 1*, *St. James's-day*, and *Michaelmas*. *Reading* sends two members to parliament.

The deceased earl of *Cadogan* (who was created

baron of *Reading* by his late majesty king *George I.* in 1716) built a fine large house at *Caversham* in *Oxfordshire*, which his successor, the present lord *Cadogan*, thought fit to reduce to a smaller and more convenient size.

The park belonging to this seat is a most beautiful scene of rural richness; it is unadorned with buildings, and owes its beauty to the fine but gentle inequalities of ground, the great variety and perfection of its trees, with the judicious manner of planting them. From the *Henley* side of the park, the road to the house serpentine for upwards of a mile along a vale which discovers all the pomp of rural elegance.

Within less than a furlong of the town, to the south-west, and within 100 yards of the *Kennet*, on a little rising ground, called *Catsgrove-hill*, is a stratum of oysters five or six inches, extending a great way through the hill; many of them large and entire.

Near *Wadley* is a tree, which has contracted a petrifying crust, about the thickness of a shilling, over a part which has been lopped off with an ax.

Twyford is about five miles east of *Reading*, and is only noted, like *Theale*, and the other towns beyond *Reading*, for its number of inns, for the accommodation of carriers, &c.

Just beyond *Theale* is *Inglefield*, where King *Ethelwolf* routed the *Danes*.

From *Reading* I went to *Great Marlow* in *Buckinghamshire*, which, though not in the direct road, yet lying on the banks of the river *Thames*, is proper enough to be spoken of, as it sends two members to parliament.

It is a town of very great embarkation on the *Thames*, not so much for manufactures wrought here (for the trade of the town is chiefly in bone-lace,) but for goods brought from the neighbouring towns; a very great quantity of malt and meal, particularly, being brought hither from *High Wickham*, which is one of the greatest corn-makets on this side of *England*, and lies on the road from *London*, to *Oxford*.

Between

Between *High Wickham* and *Marlow* is a little river called the *Loddon*, on which are a great many corn-mills, and some paper-mills: the first of these grind and dress the wheat, and then the meal is sent to *Marlow*, and put on board the barges for *London*; and the second make great quantities of ordinary printing-paper.

On the *Thames*, just by the side of this town, though on the other bank, are three very remarkable mills, called the *Temple-mills*, or the *Brass-mills*, for making *Bisham* abbey *Battery-work*, as they call it, viz. kettles, pans, and all sorts of brass manufacture with great success.

Next to these are two mills, which are both of an extraordinary kind; one for making of thimbles; the other, for pressing of oil from rape and flax-seed: both which turn to very good account to the proprietors.

Hither is also brought down a vast quantity of beech-wood, which grows in *Buckinghamshire* more plentifully than in any other part of *England*.

At *Bisham* in *Berks*, over-against this town, was formerly an abbey; and the remains of it are still to be seen. The estate belonged once to the *Knights Templars*, and since came to the ancient family of *Hobby*, whereof *Sir William Hobby*, and *Sir Edward Hobby*, are noted in our histories; the latter as having been employed by *Queen Elizabeth* in the most important foreign negotiations, as a learned man, and great antiquarian. Their monuments, with those of their ladies and children, are in the little church of *Bisham*, and well worth seeing. The seat of the family is now in *Dorsetshire*; but hither they are generally all brought, when they die, to be buried with their ancestors*.

* *Bisham Abbey*, the seat of *Sir John Hobby Mill*, is very well situated on the banks of the *Thames*; a range of wood that partly surrounds it, crowns the hills in a very noble manner. *Young's Eastern Tour*.

From hence we fell with the *Thames* into *Maidenhead*, and so came into the *London* road again. It is an ancient corporation under the government, of an high steward, a mayor, steward, and 10 aldermen. The mayor for the time being is clerk to the market, and coroner; and he, and the mayor for the preceding year, and the steward, are justices of the peace. It is said to have had its name from an head worshipped there before the Reformation, of one of the 11,000 virgins, that, the legends tell us, were martyred with *St. Ursula*: yet it was incorporated, in the 26th of *Edward III.* by the name of The Fraternity or Guild of the Brothers and Sisters of *Maiden-bith*. The town is a large thoroughfare, with good inns, and has a market weekly every *Wednesday*. It lies in two parishes, *Bray* and *Cookham*. Over the river *Thames*, which divides the two counties of *Berkshire* and *Buckingham*, is now erecting, and nearly finished, a stone bridge, on a noble and superb plan; a great ornament on the high road, and emolument to the corporation, who, by a late act of parliament, are superintendents of the bridge, receive the tolls for the present building and future preservation of this elegant and most useful structure. The chapel in the town is a neat modern building, not subject to episcopal visitation, and the minister is appointed by the inhabitants.

Not far from *Maidenhead*, at *Laurence-Waltham*, was a considerable *Roman* fort. It stood in a field now called *Weycock*, or *High-Rood*; in which *Roman* coins have been frequently plowed up.

Leaving *Maidenhead*, on the opposite side of the river, in *Buckinghamshire*, *Clifden* offers to your sight a magnificent and delightful palace, first begun by *George Duke of Buckingham*, in the reign of *Charles II.* The late Earl of *Orkney*, to whom it descended

by

by marriage, afterwards greatly improved and finished it. It had the honour to be the summer retreat of his late Royal Highness *Frederick* Prince of *Wales*; who farther enlarged both house and gardens, and made them most delightful; insomuch that in every part, nothing is offered to the sight but the most agreeable grounds, heightened by an extensive and incomparable view of the river *Thames*, and a most beautiful and well cultivated country. The house is a stately regular edifice, and the rooms spacious and noble. In the grand chamber, the tapestry hangings represent the battles of the late Duke of *Marlborough*, wrought to great perfection, by order of the late Earl of *Orkney*, who was himself an officer of superior rank in these glorious campaigns. On the front of the house is raised a most noble terras walk, said to be higher than that of *Windsor* castle. It is certain the prospect is equally beautiful and extensive. This house now belongs to the Earl of *Inchiquin*, a peer of *Ireland*.

Lower down the river, not far from *Maidenhead* bridge, is *Bray*, a pleasant village, in which are several large and elegant houses. *Bray* is also famous for its vicar, who, in the reigns of *Henry VIII.* *Edward VI.* *Queen Mary*, and *Queen Elizabeth*, in all the changes, both of church and state, readily conformed to each establishment, declaring, as the song says, *He would be vicar of Bray still*. At a small distance in the river, is an ait, formed by the late Duke of *Marlborough* into a beautiful retirement for pleasure or fishing in the summer-season. The buildings upon it are commodious, are in an elegant taste, and highly finished.

Returning again into the great *Bath* road, on the right hand are the pleasant villages of *Taploe* and *Burnham*. Near this last place, on the left hand, is *Undercombe*, the seat of the ancient family of *Eyre*:

Also near adjoining are the ruins of the abbey of *Burnham*.

Passing over a fine road, through a most pleasant country for four miles, and by the two famous inns at *Salt-Hill*, we left the road on the right, and arrived at *Eton* college. This college was founded by King *Henry VI.* A. D. 1442; a prince munificent in noble foundations for the encouragement of learning, as this college of *Eton*, and *King's* college, *Cambridge*, bear ample testimony.

The building of *Eton*, except the great school-room, is ancient; the chapel *Gothic*; but the whole has been repaired, at a great expence, out of the college stock, within these few years, and a handsome library built for the reception of books.

In the great court, a copper statue is erected to the honour of the royal founder, by Dr. *Godolphin*, late dean of *St. Paul's*, and provost of this college; and the library has received several considerable benefactions; particularly, not many years ago, the fine collection of *Richard Topham*, Esq; formerly keeper of the records in the *Tower*. Before that, a collection of books, valued at 2000 *l.* was left to it by Dr. *Waddington*, bishop of *Chichester*. Dr. *Godolphin* aforesaid, the Rev. Mr. *Reynolds*, and *Nicholas Man*, Esq; were also benefactors to this library.

The gardens, which extend from the college down almost to the bank of the *Thames*, are well planted and kept.

The college was amply endowed by the royal founder; but his deposer and successor, King *Edward IV.* took several manors from *Eton* college, and bestowed them on their neighbours at *Windsor*; and had intended to have taken from them still more, had not the celebrated *Jane Shore* *, one of his mistresses,

* Her picture is believed to be still preserved in the provost's lodge, at *King's College*.

solicited in their behalf. The present revenue of the college is about 5000 *l. per annum*, and maintains a provost, a vice-provost, and six other fellows, and 70 scholars on the foundation, besides a full choir for the chapel, with necessary officers and servants. The school (which stands foremost for classical learning in *Britain*) is divided into the upper and lower, and each into three classes; each school has one master, and four assistants or ushers. None are received into the upper school, till they can make *Latin* verses, and have a tolerable knowledge of the *Greek*. In the lower school the children are received very young, and are initiated into all school-learning. Besides the seventy scholars upon the foundation, there are always abundance of children, generally speaking, of the best families, and of persons of distinction, who are boarded in the houses of the townsmen.

The number of scholars instructed here has been from five to six hundred; but of late years it has very much decreased.

The election of scholars for the university, out of this school, is made annually, on the first *Tuesday* in *August*: In order to it, three persons are deputed, from *King's* college in *Cambridge*, viz. the provost of that college, one senior, and one junior professor, fellows of the same, who, being joined by the provost, vice-provost, and head-master of *Eton* college, call before them the scholars of the upper class; and, examining them in the several parts of their learning, choose out twelve such as they think best qualified, and enter them in a list for the university. These youths are not immediately removed from the school, but wait till vacancies fall in *King's* college; and, as such happen, they are then taken as they stand in seniority in the roll of election.

When a scholar from *Eton* comes to *King's* college, he is received upon the foundation, and pursues his studies there for three years: after which, he be-

comes fellow, unless he has forfeited his right by misbehaviour, marriage, or ecclesiastical preferment, according to the terms of the statutes.

The apartments of the provosts and fellows are very handsome and commodious, and each have separate gardens.

In the town of *Eton* is lately built a neat chapel for public worship, for the use of the parishioners. This chapel was built at the sole expence of the Rev. Mr. *Hetherington*, a gentleman now living, some time fellow of the college, whose good deeds also lately extended to the unfortunate and indigent, by the great and beneficial aid and support of the blind: A charity singular, and well established by the generous benefactor in his lifetime, and of which he has appointed a succession of trustees for its future regulation and security.

I am now come to *Windsor*, so called from its winding banks, or *shore*; where I must, for a while, quit the subject of trade and navigation, in order to describe the most beautiful and pleasantly situated castle, and royal palace, in *Great Britain*.

William the Norman was the first of our *English* monarchs who distinguished *Windsor*. That prince, who delighted much in hunting, finding it a situation proper for that purpose, and, as he said of it, a suitable place for the entertainment of kings, agreed with the abbot of *Westminster* for an exchange, and so took possession of it. He built a castle here, and had several little lodges, or hunting-houses, in the forest adjoining; and frequently lodged, for the convenience of his sport, in an house which the monks before enjoyed, near or in the town of *Windsor*; for the town is much more ancient than the present castle, and was an eminent pass upon the *Thames* in the reigns of the *Saxon* kings.

Henry I. rebuilt and fortified it, summoning all his nobility

nobility to attend him here, at *Whitsuntide*, in the 10th year of his reign. Here *Edward I.* had four children born by his Queen *Eleanor*, who took great delight in this situation : but it did not arrive at further magnificence till the reign of King *Edward III.* who, being called *Edward of Windsor*, because there born, and taking an extreme liking to this place, resolved to fix his summer-residence here ; and, accordingly, laid out, himself, the plan of that magnificent palace, which, as to outward form and building, we now see there : for whatever has been done, as to beautifying, altering, or amending, the inside and apartments, nothing has been added to the building itself, except that noble terrace which runs under the north front, and leads to the green on the park, at the east side or end of it, along which the fine lodgings, and royal apartments, were at first built ; all the north part being then taken up in rooms of state, and halls for public balls, &c.

The house itself was indeed a palace, and without any appearance of a fortification ; but when the building was brought on to the slope of the hill on the town-side, the king added ditches, ramparts, the round tower, and several other places of strength ; and thence it was called a castle.

The terrace is a truly magnificent work : for, as it is raised on a steep declivity of the hill, it was necessarily cut down a very great depth, to bring the foundation to a flat equal to the breadth which was to be formed above. From the foundation it was raised by solid stone-work of a vast thickness, with cross walls of stone, for banding the front, and preventing any thrust from the weight of earth within ; but a gentle slope would have been better in all respects.

This noble walk is covered with fine gravel, and has cavities, with drains, to carry off the water ; by which means, no rain rests on the terrace, but is dry, and

and fit to walk on, after the greatest showers. The breadth of this walk is very spacious on the north side; on the east side it is narrower. Neither *Verfailles*, nor any of the royal palaces in *France*, *Naples*, or *Rome*, can shew any thing like this.

At the end of this walk, leading into the park, King *Charles I.* built a gate; and his son *Charles II.* adorned this august palace with a well-ordered magazine of arms, many curious paintings, and other improvements; which were continued by King *James II.* and *William III.*

The castle contains two square courts, with a tower between them; which some distinguish by the name of so many wards, as the higher ward is the inner square court, the middle ward is the tower, and the lower ward is the outer square court.

At the north-east corner of this terrace is a drawbridge, by which you go off upon the plain of the park, on the edge of which the prospect of the terrace is doubled by a vista, south over the park, and quite up to the great park, and towards the forest.

From this lofty terrace the people within have an egress to the park, and to a most beautiful walk, which neither King *Edward III.* nor his successors, for some hundreds of years, knew any thing of; all their prospect being from the windows of the castle.

On that side of the building which looks out upon the terrace, are all the royal apartments; those of King *Edward III.* which were on the east side, being now allotted to great officers of state.

You mount into the royal apartments by several back stairs, but the public way is up a small ascent to a flat, or half-pace, where are two entries of state by two magnificent stair-cases; one on the left hand to the royal apartments, and the other on the right, to *St. George's-hall*, and the royal chapel.

Before the entrance to these, on either side, you pass through the guard-chambers, where you see the

walls

walls furnished with arms, and the king's yeomen of the guard keeping their station. These rooms lead as well to the fine lodgings, as to *St. George's-hall*.

In the cieling is *Britannia* on a globe, the *Indies* offering her riches, and *Europa* presenting her with a crown, surrounded with a circle in form of a snake. These chambers are adorned with a fine picture of Prince *George of Denmark* on horseback over the chimney in one of them, and of *Charles XII.* king of *Sweden* over the other. There are also the admirable pieces of *Judith* and *Holofernes*, *Mary Magdalen*, the *Roman* charity, the murder of the *Innocents*, *Jupiter* and *Leda*, fruit-pieces, &c. in the dining-room; canopies of state, which exceed description, inestimable pictures, in the closet, and little gallery; with that of *English* beauties, which alone, says a connoisseur in painting, are worth a stranger's coming to *England* to see.

In the royal lodgings there have been, and are now making so many alterations and removal of the paintings and furniture, that there can be no entering upon a particular description. In the chimney-piece of one of these apartments, is a piece of needle-work exquisitely fine, performed, as they say, by the Queen of *Scots*, during the time of her confinement in *Fotheringay-castle*. There are several family-pictures in the chimney-pieces, and other parts of these lodgings, which are very valuable.

These rooms look all out north towards the terrace, and over part of the finest and richest vale in the world; which along the course of the river *Thames*, with very little interruption, reaches to, and includes, the city of *London* east, and the city of *Oxford* west; the river, with a beautiful winding stream, gliding gently through the middle of it, and enriching, by its navigation, both the land and the people, on every side.

It may be proper to say something of the beauties and

and ornaments of *St. George's-hall*, though nothing can be said equal to what the eye may be witness to. It is very wide and long, and was originally used for the entertainment of the knights of the garter, at their installation. It is surprising, at the first entrance, to see at the upper end the picture of King *William* on horse-back; under him an ascent with marble steps, a ballustrade, and an half-pace, which formerly was actually there, with room for a throne, or chair of state, for the Sovereign to sit on, when on public days he thought fit to appear in ceremony.

Here we may also admire the picture of *Edward* the Black Prince, representing the kings of *France* and *Scotland*, his prisoners, to his father King *Edward* III. sitting on a throne: nor would I pass over in silence the representation of the triumphs of King *Charles* II. over rebellion, and false patriotism.

At the west end of the hall is the chapel royal, the neatest and finest of the kind in *England*: the carved work is beyond any that can be seen in the kingdom. This chapel is paved with marble, and the walls are painted with the histories of the *New Testament*. The altar-piece represents the institution of the Eucharist, and on the cieling is painted a view of our Lord's ascension.

After we had spent some hours in viewing all that was curious on this side, we came down to the donjon, or *Round Tower*, which goes up a long, but easy ascent of steps, and is very high. Here we were obliged to deliver up our swords, but no where else; though here is nothing curious. The governor's or constable's lodgings are neatly furnished, but no ways extraordinary.

From this tower you see *St. Paul's* cathedral at *London*, very plainly*.

* A centinel is said to have saved himself from punishment for neglect of duty, by affirming, that he heard *St. Paul's* clock strike thirteen at midnight, which upon enquiry proved to be true.

Coming down from hence, we entered into the lower court, where are the great chapel of *St. George*, belonging to the order of the garter, and the house or college for the poor knights, as they are called, 24 in number.

I might go back here to the history of the order of the garter, the institution of which by King *Edward III.* had its original here: but this is done so fully in the late *History of Windsor-Castle, and the Order of the Garter*, and by other authors, that I shall only mention, that this order was not founded on the Countess of *Salisbury's* garter, as *Polydore Virgil* idly asserts; but on that martial king's own garter, which he gave as the signal at the glorious battle of *Cressy*, as *St. George* was given for the word of the day: to commemorate which, he instituted this order.

The first knights, though not all noblemen, were men of great characters, and eminent, either in the army, or in the civil administration, and such as the Sovereign did not think it below him to make his companions.

The lower court of the castle, although not so distinguished by lodgings and rooms of state is nevertheless particularly remarkable for the fine chapel of the order, a most beautiful and magnificent work, and which shews the greatness not only of the court in those days, but the spirit and genius of the magnanimous founder. The chapel is not only fine within, but the workmanship without is extraordinary. *King's-College* chapel at *Cambridge*, built by *Henry VI.* and *Henry VII.'s* chapel in *Westminster-Abbey*, are fine buildings; but they are modern, compared to this, which was begun, as appears by the dates upon the walls in the year 1337.

The coats of arms, and the various imagery and other ornaments, both inside and outside, not only of the king, but of several of the first knights companions,

nions, are wonderfully finished; and the work has stood out against the injury of time, to admiration.

It is observable, that King *Edward* owns this chapel was begun by his ancestors; and some think it was by *Edward* I. and that he himself was baptized in it; and there was a castle built by *William* I. As to the chapel, which was then called a church, or a convent, King *Edward* III. did not pull down the old building entirely; but he added all the choir to the first model, and several other proper parts for the purposes intended; as houses and handsome apartments for the canons, and other persons belonging to the church, which are generally situated on the north side of the square, out of sight, or rather screened from the common view by the church itself; which dwellings are, notwithstanding, very good. Then the king finished it, in the manner we now see it. As for the old castle, built by *William* I. the king pulled it down to the foundation, forming a new building according to the present plan, and which stood, as above, to the time of King *Charles* II. without any alteration.

In the choir are the stalls for the knights of the order, with a throne for the Sovereign: also, stalls in the middle of it, for 18 poor knights-pensioners. They are clothed in a red cloth cassock, and a purple mantle, with a *St. George's* cross on the left shoulder; and are obliged to go, clothed in this manner, twice a day to church, to pray for the Sovereign and knights of the most noble order of the garter.

Here are to be seen the banners of the knights who now enjoy the honour of the garter. When they die, those banners are taken down, and the coat of arms of the deceased knight set up in the place allotted for those arms over the small stall: So that those coats of arms are a living history, or rather a record, of all the knights that ever have been since the first institution of the order, and how they succeeded one another;

ther; by which it appears, that kings, emperors, and sovereign princes, have not thought it below them to accept of the honour of being knights companions of the order; while, at the same time, it must be noted, to the honour of the *English* crown, that our kings have never thought fit to accept of any of their orders abroad, of what kind soever.

Several kings, and persons of high rank, have been buried also in this chapel; as King *Henry VI.* his rival and successor King *Edward IV.* *Henry VIII.* his Queen *Jane Seymour*, King *Charles I.* and a daughter of the late Queen *Anne*. Here also is the family burying-place of the dukes of *Beaufort*, who are a natural branch of the royal family of *Lancaster*.

There are also several monuments of the nobility and learned men in this chapel, which are collected and set down in the above *History of this castle and chapel*, to which I refer.

Adjoining to the east end of this chapel, is a fine edifice, of like building, erected by King *Henry VII.* for a burial-place for himself and his successors, kings of *England*; but this prince afterwards altering his purpose, began the more noble edifice at *Westminster*, and this fabric remained neglected till Cardinal *Wolsey* obtained a grant of it from his royal master *Henry VIII.* and with a profusion of expence, unknown to former ages, designed and began here a most sumptuous monument for himself; whence this building obtained the name of *Wolsey's Tomb-house*, and, by the inattention of historians, a mistaken opinion prevails, that the whole building was at first erected by that cardinal. This monument was so glorious, as Lord *Bacon* observes in his life of King *Henry VIII.* that it far exceeded that of King *Henry VII.* in *Westminster-Abbey*; and at the time of the cardinal's disgrace, the design was so far executed, that 4250 ducats had been paid to the statuary, and 380 *l.* sterling to the gilder, for what had been in part done. But

so illusive are human purposes, that the cardinal dying soon after his retirement from court, he was privately buried at *Leicester*, where he died in his way to *London* in custody; and at last (*anno* 1646) his monument remaining unfinished, became the plunder of the factious, and the statue and figures of gilt copper of exquisite workmanship, made for the ornament of the tomb, sold to help to carry on the civil war on the parliament's side of the question.

King *James II.* converted this building into a chapel for the service of Popery, and mass was publicly performed here; and *Verrio* the famous painter, who had been many years employed in painting the royal apartments, painted this chapel also. Pity it is, that this building, which might be an ornament, should be suffered to run to ruin, and stand the mark of public resentment, for being once employed in a service disagreeable to a Protestant people: but certain it is, since that prince's reign, it has been entirely neglected, and being no appendage to the collegiate church, waits the royal favour to retrieve it from the disgrace of its present situation.

This tomb-house, in the year 1759, suffered by high winds, and probably will not be many years able to resist corroding time and tempestuous weather; given up, as it long has been, to neglect and ruin.

All the ceremonies observed here in the instalment of the knights, are so fully set down in Mr. *Ashmole's* and the above history of the *Order of the Garter*, that nothing can be said but what must be a copy from them.

As the upper court and building are fronted with the fine terrace, so the lower court, where this beautiful chapel stands, is encompassed with a very high wall, which goes round the west end of the court to the gate; and looking south, leads into the town, as the gate of the upper court looks likewise south-east into the little park.

The

The parks about *Windsor* are very agreeable and spacious : The little park, as it is called, is above 3 miles round, the great one 14, and the forest above 30. The first is peculiar to the court, the others are open for riding, hunting, and taking the air, for any gentlemen.

The situation of *Windsor* is most pleasant on the banks of the *Thames*, in the midst of delightful vallies ; and many gentlemen of fortune and family constantly reside in the town and neighbourhood. His Majesty is at present, 1778, enlarging and greatly improving a pleasant house of retirement belonging to the palace, in which, with the Queen, his Majesty has lately occasionally resided ; and it is thought, that this pleasing habitation will be appropriated to the future residence of her Majesty.

The Duke of *St. Albans* has here a handsome house and gardens.

The great park lies on the south side of the town, and, by a most delightful road or long walk, through a double plantation of trees on each side, leads to the ranger or keeper's lodge, the residence of his late Royal Highness the Duke of *Cumberland*, who greatly improved the natural beauties of this park, and by large plantations of trees, extensive lawns, new roads, spacious canals, and rivers of water, made this *villa* a most delightful and princely habitation. This park is 14 miles in circumference, and is well stocked with deer and variety of other game ; many foreign beasts and birds were here also kept by his Royal Highness, who daily added to the improvements therein.

The new-erected building on *Shrub's-hill*, over a beautiful verdure and young plantation of trees, is very elegant, and forms the most delightful rural scene. The noble piece of water in the valley underneath was effected at a large expence, and from many small streams or currents of water, is now made

made a spacious river, capable to carry barges and boats of pleasure with freedom. His Royal Highness also erected over this river a bridge of most curious architecture, on a noble and bold plan, being a single arch, 165 feet wide. This piece of water is a great ornament to the park, and terminates in a grotto, and large cascade, or fall of water, which was nearly ruined by a great rain and inundation in 1768; and whilst the beauties of nature were thus assisted by art, what might not have been expected in a few years from such noble and extensive designs, under the guidance of so munificent and royal an intendant!

Neither was the attention of his Royal Highness confined to this park only, but extended in like manner to the adjoining forest, that scene of rural diversion, and place of residence of the royal game.

In this extensive track of land are several agreeable towns and villages, of which *Oakingham* and *Wargrave* are considerable.

Oakingham is a pretty large and well-frequented market-town on *Tuesdays*. It has three fairs, and contains several streets, a free-school, an hospital, and a market-house, which stands in the center. It is governed by an alderman, recorder, and capital burgesses; and is chiefly supported by a manufacture of cloth.

Wargrave, though now much neglected, was formerly a market-town, and part of the possessions of Queen *Emma*, who passed the fiery trial, or the *Ordeal* of the *Saxons*, for female purity.

Cranborne-lodge, in this neighbourhood, belongs to his Royal Highness the Duke of *Gloucester*, the present ranger of the forest. His Royal Highness has lately built, on an adjacent hill, an elegant mansion, called *Gloucester Lodge*, which commands a like noble and beautiful prospect.

As for the town of *Windsor*, it has belonged to the crown ever since the conquest. It contains several streets,

streets, some of which lie about the castle; but the principal looks southward, and is adorned with very good private buildings, and an handsome town-hall, built in the reign of King *Charles II.* It arose out of the ruins of *Old Windsor*, which decayed in proportion as the new town advanced. It was constituted a free borough by King *Edward I.* with many privileges, which it enjoys at present. The corporation consists of a mayor, two bailiffs, and 28 burgesses, chosen out of the inhabitants; thirteen of whom are called fellows or benchers of the *Guild*; and ten of these are styled aldermen, or chief benchers, out of whom the mayor and bailiffs are chosen. This town returns two members to parliament.

The parish-church is a spacious ancient building, situated in the high street of the town, which is paved like *London*, and in which also is erected the *Guild* or town-house, a neat regular edifice, supported and adorned with columns and arches of *Portland* stone. The hall is a handsome large room, well adapted for the meeting of the mayor and corporation, for the business of the borough.

In the area underneath the town-hall, is kept a weekly market, every *Saturday*, which is plentifully supplied with corn, meat, fish, and all other provisions.

Sunning-hill, *Inglefield-Green*, *Old Windsor*, *Datchet*, *Cooper's hill*, *Langley-Park*, *Percy-Lodge*, *Stoke-Green*, *Furnham*, *East Burnhams*, *Tapley*, and other situations equally beautiful, are deservedly celebrated, in the neighbourhood of this delightful palace.

I left *Windsor*, and passing by *Ditton Park*, (a seat of the late Duke of *Montagu*, now belonging to Lord *Beaulieu*, who married one of the daughters and co-heiresses of that great and humane nobleman), and struck again into the *London* road at *Colnbrook*, passed over the heath and town of *Hounslow*; also *Brentford*, *Hammer-smith*, and *Kensington*, to *London*.

LET-

L E T T E R II.

Containing a description of the city of LONDON, taking in the city of Westminster, borough of Southwark, and the buildings circumjacent.

LONDON, as a city only, and as its walls and liberties line it out, might be viewed in a smaller compass than what we propose to consider in: for, when I speak of *London*, in the modern acceptance, I take in all that vast mass of buildings reaching from *Blackwall* in the east, to *Tothill-fields* in the west; and extended in an unequal breadth, from the bridge or river in the south, to *Islington* north, and from lord *Grosvenor's* beyond *Abingdon-Street* to *Cavendish-square*; and all the new buildings by and beyond *Grosvenor* and *Hanover* squares to the *Brentford* road one way, to the *Acton* road another; a prodigious number of buildings, that nothing in the world does, or ever did, surpass.

London, as to its figure, is stretched out in building at the pleasure of every undertaker of them, and as the convenience of the people directs, whether for trade or otherwise.

Mr. *Maitland* says, that in the year 1732, he measured the length and breadth of this city and suburbs with a preambulator, and found the extent as follows:

Length, from the upper end of *Knightsbridge* in the west, to *Robin-Hood-Lane*, at the lower end of *Poplar* in the east, seven miles and a half.

Length, from *Robin-Hood-Lane*, back again, coasting the river westward, to *Peterborough house*, at the south end of *Millbank-Row*, above the horse ferry *Westminster*, six miles and three quarters.

Breadth

Breadth, from *Jeffery's* almshouses, in *Kingsland Road*, to the upper end of *Camberwell Road*, *Newington Butts*, three miles.

Within this extensive area there were computed to be 5099 streets, lanes, squares, &c. composed of 5,968 houses; but so many of the old streets have been since altered, and so many new streets added, that however right this computation was at that time, it can now be no longer so.

We see several villages, formerly standing, as it were, in the country, and at a great distance, now joined to the streets by continued buildings; and more making haste to meet in like manner. For example,

1. *Deptford*: this town was formerly reckoned at least two miles from *Rotherhith*, and that over the marshes too, a place unlikely ever to be inhabited; and yet now, by the increase of buildings in that town itself, and the many streets erected at *Rotherhith*, and by the docks and building-yards on the river-side which stand between both, the town of *Deptford*, and the streets of *Rotherhith*, are in a manner joined, and the buildings daily increasing; so that *Deptford* may be reckoned a part of the great mass, and infinitely full of people also: and were the town of *Deptford* now separated, and rated by itself, I believe it contains more people and stands upon more ground than the city of *Wells*.

2. The village of *Islington*, on the north side of the city, is in like manner joined to the streets of *London*, and the same may be said,

3. Of *Mile end*, on the east end of the town.

4. *Newington-butts*, in *Surry*, reaches out her hand north, and is so joined to *Southwark*, that it cannot now be properly called a town by itself, but a kind of suburb to the borough; and if, as once was talked of, *St. George's-fields* should be built into squares and streets,

streets, *Newington, Lambeth*, and the *Borough*, would make but one *Southwark*.

That *Westminster* is in a fair way to join hands with *Chelsea*, as *St. Giles's* is with *Marybone*, and *Great Russel-street* by the *Museum*, with *Tottenham-court*, is very evident : * and yet all these, put together, may still be called *London*. Whither will this city then extend, and where must a circumvallation-line of it be placed ?

Sir *William Petty*, famous for his political arithmetic, supposed the *City*, at his last calculation, to contain a million of people, and this he judged from the number of births and burials. According to this rule, by what is known of the increase of births and burials, as well as buildings, the number of inhabitants must be considerably increased. The best modern calculations, however, make it fall much short of a million. Mr. *Enfield*, in his *History of Liverpool*, makes the number of inhabitants in *London* only 651,580.

The government of this city, in particular, and abstractedly considered, is by the lord mayor, 25 other aldermen, two sheriffs, the recorder, and common council ; but the jurisdiction of these is confined to that part only which they call the city, and its liberties, which are marked out, except the *Borough*, by the walls and the bars, as they are called.

Besides this, the lord mayor and aldermen of *London* have a right presidial in *Southwark*, and hold frequent courts at *St. Margaret's-hill* in the *Borough*; they are also conservators of the bridge, and the bridge itself is their particular jurisdiction.

The lord mayor, &c. are conservators of the river *Thames*, from *Staines* bridge in *Surry* and *Middlesex*,

* This is actually the case with the two latter, and almost so with the former.

to the river *Medway* in *Kent*, and, as some insist, up the *Medway* to *Rocheſter* bridge.

The government of the out-parts is by justices of the peace, and by the sheriffs of *London*, who are likewise sheriffs of *Middleſex*; and the government of *Weſtminſter* is by an high bailiff, conſtituted by the dean and chapter, to whom the civil adminiſtration is committed, and who preſides in elections of parliament for the city of *Weſtminſter*, and returns the candidates who are choſen.

The remaining part of *Southwark* ſide, where the city juřiſdiction does not obtain, is governed alſo by a bench of juſtices, and their proper ſubſtituted peace-officers, excepting out of this the privileges of the *Marſhalſea*, or of the *Marſhal's Court*, the privilege of the *Marſhal* of the *King's Bench*, and the like.

That I may obſerve ſome method in my deſcription, and avoid repetitions, I ſhall divide my ſubject into the following branches :

- I. I ſhall give a brief account of what the city was before the fire, and how improved when rebuilt, and within a few years after it.
- II. Of the prodigious increaſe of buildings within our own memory, down to the year 1778.
- III. Of the public offices, and city corporations.
- IV. Of the moſt noted edifices, ſtructures, ſquares, in and about *London*, and of its famous bridges.
- V. Of the principal hoſpitals, and other charitable inſtitutions in and about *London*.
- VI. Of the churches of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, *Southwark*, &c.
- VII. Of *St. James's* palace, the parliament-houſe, *Weſtminſter-hall*, &c.
- VIII. Of the ſtatues, and other public ornaments.
- IX. Of the gates of *London* and *Weſtminſter*.
- X. Of the markets of *London*, &c.
- XI. Of the public ſchools and libraries, of the *Britiſh* Museum,

Museum, and other establishments tending to promote learning and science.

XII. Of the shipping in the *Thames*, and the trade carried on by means of that noble river.

XIII. Of the manner by which the city is supplied with water.

XIV. Of the christenings and burials in *London*; the importance of the city of *London* to the whole kingdom; of its comparative proportion to the public expence, and the disproportionate number of members it returns.

XV. The benefit to the public of a good understanding between the court and city.

To begin then with the first :

I. *A brief account of what the city was before the fire, and how improved when rebuilt, and within a few years after it.*

TAKE the city, and its adjacent buildings, to stand as described by Mr. *Stow*, or by any other author, who wrpte before the fire of *London*, and the difference between what it was then, and what it is now, may be observed thus :

Before the fire of *London*, Anno 1666, the buildings looked as if they had been formed to make one general bonfire, whenever incendiaries should think fit to attempt it; for the streets were not only narrow, and the houses all built with timber, lath, and plaster; but the manner of the building in those days, one story projecting out beyond another, was such, that in some narrow streets the houses almost touched one another at the top; insomuch that it often happened, that if an house was on fire, the opposite house was in more danger, according as the wind stood, than the houses adjoining on either side.

And though by the new buildings after the fire, much ground was given up to enlarge the streets;

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yet it is to be observed, that the old houses stood generally upon more ground, were much larger upon the flat, and in many places, gardens and large yards about them : so that by computation near 4000 houses stand on the ground which the fire left desolate, more than stood on the same ground before.

All those palaces of the nobility, formerly making a most beautiful range of buildings fronting the Strand, with their gardens reaching to the Thames, where they had their particular water-gates and stairs, received the like improvements * : such as *Essex*, *Arundel*, *Norfolk*, *Salisbury*, *Worcester*, *Exeter*, *Hungerford*, and *York* houses ; the lord *Brook's*, lord *Hatton*, lord *Baldwin's*, and *Ely* houses in *Holbourn*, in the place of which are now so many noble streets and houses erected, as are in themselves equal to a large city : all which extend from the *Temple* to *Northumberland-house* ; *Somerset-house* (now rebuilding for public offices) and the *Savoy*, only intervening : the latter of these may be said to be, not an house, but a little town ; being separated into innumerable tenements.

Such was the state of *London* before the fire in 1666, and so prodigious were the improvements made in it, within the course of a few years after that disaster. But what are these, compared to what has been done since, within our own memory ? And this brings me to my second article.

II. *Of the prodigious increase of buildings, within our own memory, down to the year 1778.*

NOT to enter on a particular description of the buildings, I shall only take notice of the places where such enlargements are made : As,

I. All those numberless ranges of buildings, call-

* Had this bank of so fine a river continued to be thus nobly inhabited, how beautiful may we suppose it would have been at this time !

ed *Spital-fields*, reaching from *Spital-yard* at *Northern Faligate*, and from *Artillery-lane* in *Bishopsgate-street*, with all the new streets, beginning at *Hoxton*, and the back of *Shoreditch* church, north, and reaching to *Erick-lane*, and to the end of *Hare-street*, on the way to *Bethnal-green*, east; then sloping away quite to *Whitechapel* road, south-east, containing, as some people say, above 320 acres of ground, which are now close built, and inhabited by an infinite number of people.

The lanes were deep, dirty, and unfrequented; that part now called *Spitalfields-market* was a field of grafs, with cows feeding on it, since the year 1670. The *Old Artillery-ground* (where the parliament lifted their first soldiers against the King) took up all those long streets leading out of *Artillery-lane* to *Spital-yard*, *Back-gate*; and so on to the end of *Wheeler-street*, *Brick-lane*, which is now a long well-paved street, was a deep dirty road, frequented chiefly by carts fetching bricks that way into *Whitechapel* from brickkilns on those fields, whence it had its name.

2. On the more eastern part, the same increase goes on in proportion; namely, all *Goodman's-fields*, and the many streets between *Whitechapel* and *Rosemary-lane*, all built since the year 1678. *Well-close*, now called *Marine-square*, all the hither or west-end of *Ratcliffe-highway*, from the corner of *Gravel-lane* to the east-end of *East-Smithfield*, was a road over the fields; likewise, those buildings now called *Virginia-street*, and all the streets on the side of *Ratcliffe-highway* to *Gravel-lane* above-named.

3. To come to the north side of the town, and beginning at *Shoreditch* west, and *Hoxton-square*, and *Charles-square* adjoining; those were all open fields, from *Agnes St. Clare* to *Hoxton* town, till the year 1689, or thereabout. *Pitfield-street* was a bank, parting two pasture-grounds; and *Ask's* hospital was another open field. Farther west, the like addition

of

of buildings begins at the foot-way by the *Pest-house*, and includes the *French* hospital, *Old-street*, two squares, and several streets, extending from *Brick-lane* to *Mount-mill*, and the road to *Islington*, and from that road, still west, to *Wood's-close*, and to *St. John's* and *Clerkenwell*; all which streets and squares are built since the years 1688 and 1689, and were before that, and some for a long time after, open fields or gardens, and never built on till after that time; and moreover, within these few years, all those open grounds, called *Bunhill-fields*, adjoining to the *Dissenters* burying-ground (nicknamed from the famous *Mr. Baxter*, *Saints Rest*, alluding to the title of a book he had published,) are now built upon, and are complete streets of houses to the very road, and generally well inhabited.

From hence we go on still west, and beginning at *Gray's-inn*, and going on to those formerly called *Red-lion* fields, and *Lamb's-conduit* fields, we see there prodigious piles of buildings: they begin at *Gray's-inn-wall* towards *Red-lion-street*, from whence, in a strait line, they go quite to *Lamb's-conduit* fields north, including a great range of buildings reaching to *Bedford-row* and the *Cock-pit*, east, and including *Red-lion-square*, *Great* and *Little Ormond-streets*, *James-street*, *Queen's-square*, and all the streets between the square and *King's-gate* in *Holbourn*. These piles are very great, and the houses so large, that abundance of persons of rank and quality reside in them.

Farther west, in the same line, is *Southampton* great square, called *Bloomsbury*, with *King-street* on the east-side of it, and all the numberless streets west of the square to the market-place, and through *Great Russel-street*, by the *British Museum*, quite into the *Hampstead* road; all which buildings, except *Southampton-house*, and some of the square, have been formed from the open fields since the time above-

mentioned, and contain several thousands of houses. Behind *Great Russel-street*, a little beyond the *British Museum*, a spacious square is now erecting, which is to receive its name from the *Bedford* family; and it is said, that a statue of the late Duke is to ornament the center of it.

The increase of the buildings in *St. Giles's* and *St. Martin's in the Fields*, is really a kind of prodigy; comprising all the buildings north of *Long-acre*, beyond the *Seven Dials*; all the streets from *Leicester-fields* and *St. Martin's-lane*, both north and west of the *Hay-market* and *Soho*, and from the *Hay-market* to *St. James's-street* inclusive, and to the *Park-wall*; then all the buildings on the north side of the street called *Piccadilly*, and the road to *Knightsbridge*, and between that and the south-side of *Oxford-street*, including *Soho-square*, *Golden-square*, *Hanover-square*, the two *Bond-streets*, *George's-street*, and that new city stretching out to *Oxford-street*, called *Grosvenor-square*, and *Cavendish-square*, and all the streets about them; some parts of which will be briefly mentioned under the head of *Squares*.

This last addition is, by calculation, more in bulk than the cities of *Bristol*, *Exeter*, and *York*, if they were all put together; all which places were, a few years ago, mere fields of grass to feed cattle.

In *Spring-gardens*, near *Charing-cross*, are lately erected several very handsome new buildings, and a neat chapel.

The new buildings in the end of *Broad-street*, near *Bishopsgate*, formerly called *Petty-France*, deserve to be mentioned here. It is in every one's memory, what a poor and decayed place *Petty-France* was; but now the spot where it stood is called *New Broad-street*, and the buildings are the most stately and elegant in the city. They are increased quite into *Old Bebbem*, which consisted of mean and ruinous houses; and

and there may be said to be a new and stately town of buildings erected here.

Who can forbear admiring that noble opening made by pulling down the decayed houses on one side of the way from *Charing-cross*, between the two cities, and widening the narrow street into a very spacious one, quite to the *Admiralty*, and the advantages *Westminster* has received by means of the noble bridge erected over the *Thames* in *New Palace-yard*, to the opposite shore in *Southwark*, and the stately streets, *Parliament-street*, *George-street*, *Bridge-street*, *Abington-buildings*, &c. with several others?

The roads on each side of the river, north, through *Paddington* to *Islington*, and its adjacencies, and south, over *St. George's Fields*, leading to *Newington*, *Camberwell*, *Dulwich*, *Streatham*, *Deptford*, *Greenwich*, *Woolwich*, &c. are in admirable order.

Piccadilly, the houses of which overlook the beautiful *Green Park*, as well as that of *St. James's*, is a street of palaces; several fine houses of persons of condition being built and building there, instead of many very mean ones pulled down to give room for them; and the good taste for so happy a situation still increasing.

Several fine new streets, as *Hill-street*, *Charles-street*, &c. are built near *Berkeley-square* and *May-fair*, in a place which herds and herds-men, very few years ago only inhabited; but now the residence of many of the first gentry, equally splendid and convenient.

From the end of *Piccadilly*, almost to *Kensington*, on the *Brompton* side, by several fine houses already built, which afford noble prospects over *Hyde-Park*, to *Hampstead*, *Highgate*, &c. northward, we may expect that in time that whole agreeable spot will be built into houses of gentry, and made to join the town to *Kensington* palace and gravel pits.

To these may now be added, the immense number

of buildings about and beyond *Cavendish-square*, so that the streets in that part of the town are hastening to form a junction with the *New Road*. *Foley-place*, which now forms a noble avenue to *Foley-house*, will, when finished, be one of the finest streets in *Europe*; the houses being all large, and many of them very magnificent. *Portman-square* also must not be forgotten, with the growing structures of *Manchester-square*, near *Portland-street*; in the former of these there are many fine houses, and a vast stretch of new-projected streets almost to the *Paddington-road*, are now compleating with all the expedition of the *London* builders. Not far from *Tyburn*, a spacious circus is almost finished; and buildings are now carrying on where *Marybone-gardens* once stood.

III. Of the public offices, and city-corporations.

THE EXCISE-OFFICE was formerly kept in the *Old Jewry*, in a very large house, once the dwelling of Sir *John Frederick*, and afterwards of Sir *John Hern*, very considerable merchants; but it is now removed to a sumptuous edifice, built expressly for it on the site of *Gresham College*; and the *Gresham* professors, in lieu of their apartments, are allowed an addition to their stipends. In this one office is managed an immense weight of business, and they have in pay several thousands of officers. The whole kingdom is divided by them into proper districts, and to every district is a collector, a supervisor, and a certain number of gaugers, called, by the vulgar, *Excise-men*.

Under the management of this office are now brought not only the excise upon beer, ale, and other liquors, as formerly; but also, the duties on malt and candles; hops, soap, and leather; coffee, tea, and chocolate; starch, powder, spiritous liquors. Likewise the new duties upon coaches, chaises, glass, &c. all which are managed in several classes.

The

The POST-OFFICE is kept in *Lombard-street*, in a large house, formerly Sir Robert Viner's; and is under an admirable management; but a plan for rebuilding it has been some time under consideration.

The *Penny-post* is a branch of it, and a most useful addition to trade and business: for by it letters are delivered at the remotest corners of the town, almost as soon as they could be sent by a messenger, and that from four, five, six, to eight times a day, according as the distance of the place makes it practicable: infomuch that you may send a letter from *Lincoln* in the east, to the farther part of *Westminster*, for a penny, several times in the same day; and to the neighbouring villages, as *Kensington*, *Hammer-smith*, *Chiswick*, &c. westward; *Newington*, *Islington*, *Kentish-town*, *Hampstead*, *Holloway*, *Highgate*, &c. northward; to *Newington-butts*, *Camberwell*, &c. southward; to *Stepney*, *Poplar*, *Bow*, *Stratford*, *Deptford*, *Greenwich*, &c. eastward, once a day.

Nor are you tied up to a single piece of paper as in the *General Post-office*; but any packet under four ounces goes at the same price.

The CUSTOM-HOUSE comes next to be mentioned, the *Long Room* is like an *Exchange* every morning, and the crowd of people who appear there, and the business they do, is not to be explained by words: the whole building is very convenient, but not like what it might or ought to have been; and moreover the quays thereabouts are so thronged and crowded, that they are much too little for the business continually carrying on there.

Between the Horse-guards at *Whitehall* and *Charing-cross*, is the ADMIRALTY-OFFICE. This office is, perhaps, of the most importance of any of the public parts of the administration; the royal navy being the sinews of our strength.

The NAVY-OFFICE, a neat and convenient building in *Crutched-friers*, and the VICTUALING-OFFICE on *Tower-hill*, near *East-Smithfield*, both which, had we

room, deserve a particular description, are but branches of this administration, and receive their orders from hence ; as do likewise the docks and yards theirs from the *Navy-Office* ; the whole being carried on with the most exquisite order and dispatch.

A new building is now erecting for some public offices on the ground where *Somerset-house* lately stood ; it will, when finished, be a great ornament to the *Strand*, the front being built with stone in an elegant stile. A noble terrace is to extend from east to west, by the river side, in length near one quarter of a mile, with a street at each end up to the *Strand*.

Though his MAJESTY resides all the winter at St. *James's*, yet the business of the government is chiefly carried on at the *Cockpit, Whitehall* ; near which is a magnificent building, with a grand front looking to the parade in St. *James's Park*, for the TREASURY OFFICE ; and, it being a spacious structure, over that, where formerly was kept the OFFICE of the secretary of state for *Scotland*, now abolished, is the PLANTATION-OFFICE.

The Horse-guards was a building commodious enough as a barrack for a large detachment of the horse-guards, who used to keep post there : and over it were offices belonging to the judge advocate for holding courts martial for trial of deserters and others, according to the articles of war. But this building, and these offices, are now pulled down, and new ones are erected, which are very large and commodious.

A new office and house is lately erected, adjoining to the horse-guards, for the paymaster-general of the army.

The BANK used to be kept in *Grocers-hall* ; but is now removed to a new edifice, built for that thriving corporation in *Threadneedle-street*, adjoining to St. *Christopher's church* ; which building has now received such additions, and such fine openings have been made since 1760, that it is now the most magnificent edifice of the kind in the world ; and will

pro-

probably be further enlarged, so as to occupy all the area included by four streets.

The EAST-INDIA HOUSE, situated where formerly was that of Sir *William Craven*, was rebuilt in the year 1726. It is very convenient within, but, without, makes not the appearance that is worthy of the company's trade and figure in the world; its front being not extended enough. In the back part towards *Lime-street*, they have also warehouses, which were rebuilt in a handsome manner *Anno 1725*.

The AFRICAN COMPANY'S HOUSE is in the same street. But since the company have yielded up their charter to the crown, it is converted into warehouses, &c.

The SOUTH-SEA HOUSE is a new structure, situated on a large spot of ground between *Broad-street* and *Threadneedle-street*.

The YORK-BUILDINGS COMPANY have their office in *Winchester-street*.

Here are also several great offices for societies of INSURERS, where almost all hazards may be insured. The five principal are called, 1. *The Royal Exchange Insurance*, kept in a part of the *Royal Exchange*. 2. *The Royal Insurance*, kept in *Cornhill*. 3. *The Hand-in-hand Fire-office*, kept on *Snow-hill*. 4. *The Sun Fire-office*, in *Cornhill*. 5. *The Union Fire-office*, in *Maiden-lane*.

In the two first, all hazards by sea of ships and goods, not lives, are insured; as also, houses and goods are insured from fire.

In the last three, only houses and goods.

In all which offices the *Premium* is so small, and the recovery, in case of loss, so easy and certain, that nothing can be shewn like it in the world.

There are also OFFICES of INSURANCE ON LIVES, one in *Serjeant's-inn*, *Fleet-street*, the *Westminster Fire-office*, and others which manage a great deal of business in the same way.

The OFFICES of ORDNANCE, and the MINT for coining money, are kept in the *Tower of London*.

IV. *Of the most noted edifices, squares, and public structures, in and about London, and of its famous bridges.*

THAT beautiful column called the *Monument*, erected at the charge of the city, to perpetuate the memory of the fatal burning of the whole, cannot be mentioned but with some due respect to the building itself, as well as to the city. It is 202 feet high, and exceeds all the obelisks and pillars of the ancients: there is a stair-case in the middle, to ascend to the balcony, which is about 30 feet short of the top, and whence there are other steps made, even to look out at the top of all, which is fashioned like an urn, with a blaze issuing from it.*

The lord mayors of this famous metropolis have been heretofore obliged to content themselves with residing in some one or other of the stately halls of the city companies, hired for that purpose; an inconvenience which was equally unworthy of the grandeur of the great officer, and of the city over which he presided, and which now is remedied by an house, vulgarly called the *Mansion-house*, built in the place where *Stocks-market* used to be kept.

The *Royal Exchange* is the greatest bourse in the world: it is said, that it cost above 80,000*l.* in building; and yet the interest of the money was a great while answered by the rent made of the shops and vaults; but as now the trade that used to be carried on there, is dispersed in other places, it cannot be

* This magnificent pillar is said to be so much out of repair, as to be in danger of falling, which seems a little surprising, when we consider the time of its erection, and the goodness of its materials. The ground it stands on belongs to a prebend of *St. Paul's*, and, when the lease is expired, who will pay the fine of renewal? The ground will certainly be worth a great deal to build on; and it is much to be wished, that it were removed from its present disagreeable spot, to the center of one of our magnificent squares.

supposed

supposed to do so. It was, in 1768, agreeable to an act of parliament, thoroughly repaired and beautified.

The *College of Physicians* in *Warwick-lane*, is a beautiful structure, of brick and stone; but built in a place where all its beauties are, in a manner, buried.

The *Barber Surgeons Theatre*, in *Monkwell-street*, is a very fine piece of architecture, admirably disposed for seeing and hearing; the work of the famous *Inigo Jones*.

In the court of assistants room is a capital picture of *Hans Holbein*, in which is the portrait of King *Henry VIII.* sitting in his chair, delivering the charter which he granted to the surgeons.

This theatre, on the late separation of the surgeons company from the barbers, by act of parliament, with the picture, and other valuables, remain to the barbers; and the surgeons have erected a hall and theatre in the *Old Bailey*, for themselves.

The bridge over the *Thames* at *Westminster* is a most noble structure. The extent of this bridge is 1220 feet, the abutments whereof, at each end, are 113 feet each; the middle arch is 76 feet diameter, and its two piers are each 17 feet thick: every other arch, on each side, lessens four feet, and the piers one foot each. There are 13 arches in all; so that the clear space for the water is 820 feet. The solids of the 12 piers contain 400 feet, besides the two abutments; the breadth for carriages is 30 feet; and for foot-passengers, seven feet on each side.

The first pile of this bridge was driven in 1738, and the whole was finished, and ready to be opened for use, in autumn 1747, when it was discovered, that the fifth pier from *Westminster* side was sinking; and soon after stones fell out of the arch next to it. It was necessary therefore to take off the arches that rested on the pier, which was done with great care, by

by replacing centers under them, like those on which they were turned. The sinking pier was then loaded with 12,000 tons of cannon and leaden weights, in order to sink and settle it. This, and the deliberations how to repair the defect, took up above a year: But in the summer of 1749, materials being ready, it was entirely finished for use, and opened Nov. 17, 1750, at midnight. The pier that had failed, was freed from its burden by a secret arch now not to be seen.

If we consider its length, its breadth, the regularity of the design, the beauty of the workmanship, the great inland navigation, which it does not impede, the avenues that lead to it *, the provision made for the defence of passengers against the weather in their way over it, the watch of twelve men every night for the security of their persons, and the beautiful globular lamps, sixteen on each side, suspended on irons that project inwards, with a lofty sweep, from the top of each recess, and on the sides of the abutments, softening the horrors of the night, and diffusing a star-like radiance, not only over the circumfluent waters, but over the circumjacent lands, and princely palaces; all these circumstances may well seem to give this bridge a superiority over most other bridges mentioned in history.

Mr. *Labeley*, the *Swiss* architect of *Westminster* bridge, in his description thereof, published soon after it was finished, says, it contains near double the quantity of stone materials as *St. Paul's* cathedral.

October 31, 1760, the Right Hon. Sir *Thomas Chitty*, Knt. lord mayor, accompanied by several aldermen and commoners, of the committee for the new bridge, proceeded in state to *Black-friars*, and there in the north abutments his Lordship laid the first stone

* It is remarkable, that this bridge has no direct avenue due north, the line of its own direction. Surely, it could have hurt hardly any one to allow a passage, through *Great George-street* along the left-hand side of the *Bird-Cage* walk in the park, into *Petty-France*, which is much short of the *Queen's palace*.

of the intended new bridge, by striking the same with a mallet, the officers laying the city sword and mace thereon at the same time, in the sight of an infinite number of spectators.

Several pieces of gold, silver, and copper coin of his Majesty King George II. were placed under the stone, together with an inscription in *Latin* *, in large plates of pure tin, Englished thus :

*On the last day of October, in the year 1760,
and in the beginning of the most auspicious reign of*

GEORGE the Third,

*Sir Thomas Chitty, Knight, Lord Mayor,
laid the first stone of this Bridge,
Undertaken by the common-council of London,
(amidst the rage of an extensive war)
for the public accommodation,
and ornament of the city :*

Robert Mylne being the architect.

*And that there might remain to posterity
a monument of this city's affection to the man
who, by the strength of his genius,
the steadiness of his mind,
and a certain kind of happy contagion of his
probity and spirit,*

*(under the Divine favour,
and fortunate auspices of GEORGE the Second)
recovered, augmented, and secured,
the British Empire*

*in Asia, Africa, and America,
and restored the ancient reputation
and influence of his country
amongst the nations of Europe ;*

*The citizens of London have unanimously voted this
Bridge to be inscribed with the name of
WILLIAM PITT.*

* The late Bonnel Thornton, Esq; (one of the two polite authors of *The Connoisseurs*) wrote a pamphlet on this occasion, entitled, *CITY OF LONDON, &c.* in which he attacked the classical Latinity of this Inscription with equal severity and humour.

This

This bridge consists of nine arches, which being elliptical, the apertures for navigation are large, while the bridge itself is low. When a person is under the principal arch, the extent of the vault above cannot be viewed without some degree of awe.

The length of the bridge, from wharf to wharf, is 995 *English* feet; width of the central arch, 100 feet; width of the arches on each side, reckoning from the central one towards the shores, 98, 93, 80, and 70 feet respectively; width of the carriage-way, 28 feet; width of the raised foot-ways on each side, 7 feet; and the height of the ballustrade on the inside, 4 feet 10 inches.

Over each pier is a recess or balcony, containing a bench, and supported below by two Ionic pillars and two pilasters, which stand on a semicircular projection of the pier, above high-water mark. These pillars give an agreeable lightness to the appearance of the bridge on either side. There are two flights of stone steps at each end, defended by iron rails, for the convenience of taking water. These stairs, however, by conforming to the curvatures at the end of the bridge, are more elegant than convenient: A flight of fifty narrow stone steps, without one landing-place, must be very tiresome to porters going up and down with loads, and even dangerous in frosty weather.

This bridge was opened as a bridle-way on November 19, 1768, and soon after for carriages.

Putney or Fulham bridge I shall take notice of in its place. A bridge is built at Kew, near Brentford, another at Hampton, and another fine one at Walton, all within a very few years past: Another new bridge from Chelsea to Battersea has lately been built; and one at Richmond is but just finished: To say nothing of the benefits this great metropolis will derive from the alterations that are made at the old London bridge, which

which, in its present upper part, is as convenient and handsome as either of the other two.

The *Mews* near *Charing-cross*, where the King's horses are kept, and the coaches of state set up, is a very large square; but as stables, &c. nearer to the palace would be more convenient, it is a pity, that this large and fine spot, which now bears all the appearance of a waste, was not converted into streets, or formed into a square of elegant buildings.

Carlton-house, belonging to her late Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of *Wales*; *Marlborough-house*, and the *Queen's Palace*, all three in or adjoining to *St. James's-park*; the Duke of *Montagu's*, and the Duke of *Richmond's*, in the *Privy-garden*; *Devonshire-house*, and the Earl of *Bath's*, in *Piccadilly*; the Earl of *Chesterfield's*, over-looking *Hyde-Park*; *Northumberland-house* in the *Strand*; *Montagu-house* now the repository of the curiosities that compose the *British Museum*, of which more amply in a future article,) the Duke of *Bedford's*; those of the Duke of *Queensberry*, Lord *Bateman*, and numberless others of the nobility and first gentry; together with the noble and extensive streets of buildings about *Soho*, *Bloomsbury*, *Grosvenor*, *Cavendish*, *Berkeley*, *Hanover*, and *Portman squares*, with those stately squares themselves; *St. James's-square*, *Red Lion-square*, *Lincoln's-inn-square*, especially as it has been of late years altered and adorned; the new buildings about *Fleetkey-fields*, *Bedford-row*, *Queen's-square*, and innumerable other improvements; would take up too much of my room to particularize.

But yet I cannot forbear particularly to mention the beauty, because it is an honour to our country; and that is the great piazza in *Covent-garden*, the noblest square in *Europe*, for grandeur of the design, especially with the beauty of the east front of that elegant church, the only piece the moderns have yet produced, that can admit of a just comparison with the

the works of antiquity; where a majestic simplicity commands the approbation of the judicious. The rustic arcade round the square is of an excellent composition, above which is a grand story, and an attic, and the windows dressed with a regular entablature; but a part of this arcade being destroyed by fire, the houses are built in the modern taste.

Here too we must mention the buildings carrying on upon the spot where *Ely* house stood. Here a spacious street is to extend from south to north, which will consist of about twenty-five houses on each side, and the street will be full fifty feet wide. The ancient and venerable chapel is now covered with slate, and the outside walls are casing with stone. A communication will be made at the north end for carriages, and also an opening into *Hatton-street*. The whole ground contains at least four acres.

To these must be added the *Adelphi* buildings near the *Strand*, which form a very stupendous mass of new and large houses; beneath which are vast subterraneous passages, whereby carriages of all kinds have communication with the *Thames*; and the immense warehouses, which form the base of the streets, &c. are rendered commodious. The front towards the *Thames* has some appearance of grandeur; and from the whole of this immense pile, the contrivance, spirit, and professional knowledge of the Mess. *Adams* the architects derive no inconsiderable honour.

Nor should the *Pantheon* be forgotten, which in taste, magnificence, and novelty of design and decoration, may be pronounced superior to any thing of the kind in *Europe*. Its principal room is truly magnificent: it is lighted by a central dome of a considerable magnitude; the galleries round this room are supported by columns formed of a new-discovered composition, which rivals the most beautiful marble, both in colour and hardness. By an upper range of them the roof is supported, and the other decorations

are by no means inferior, either in taste or finishing. The circumjacent apartments are also finely ornamented with whatever the invention of modern luxury can suggest. And beholders will find it difficult to determine whether this place is most remarkable for its magnificence, convenience, or the novelty, taste, and propriety of its decorations. The stated diversion of this place is a concert once a fortnight, with a ball after it; to which any one is admitted, who purchases the tickets necessary for that purpose.—Masquerades are also occasionally held here, when the building is finely and most magnificently illuminated, and has been allowed to exhibit a more splendid scene of this kind, than is, perhaps, to be beheld in any other country.

V. Of the principal hospitals, and other charitable institutions, in and about the city of London.

N O city in the world can shew the like number of private and public charities, as the cities of London and Westminster.

I have not room particularly to describe them, and must therefore content myself with giving little more than their names, and those of their munificent founders; referring to those larger works where more ample accounts and descriptions may be expected.

1. *Bethlehem hospital in Moorfields*, for the reception of lunatics, erected at the charge of the city, *anno* 1676.

St. Luke's hospital, erected for the like purpose, in *Upper Moorfields*, facing the former.

2. *Bridewell* is as well an house of correction as an hospital: it was formerly the king's city-palace, but given to the city by King *Edward VI.* for the reclaiming of idle persons, vagrants, &c. and for bringing up lads to handicraft businesses.

There

There are two other houses of correction, called *Bridewells*, one at *Clerkenwell*, for *Middlesex*; the other in *Tothill-fields*, for *Westminster*.

3. *Christ's* hospital, originally founded by King *Edward VI.* (at the request of the Lord Mayor and aldermen of *London*, and of the pious martyr Dr. *Ridley*, then bishop of *London*) for entertaining, educating, nourishing, and bringing up the poor children of the citizens; such as, their parents (or fathers, at least) being dead, have no other way of support.

This noble charity maintains near 1000 poor children, who have food, clothing, and instruction, useful and sufficient learning, and an excellent good discipline observed. At the proper ages they are put out to trades suitable to their several geniuses and capacities; and others are taught mathematics, navigation, and arithmetic, to fit them for private and public service. There is also an excellent grammar-school, whence the best scholars are sent to the university, and enjoy there good exhibitions, arising from the bounty of several benefactors, the chief of which was Lady *Mary Ramsey*, who founded the said school. The seeing of these children at church on a Sunday at *Christ-church*, and at supper on Sunday evening, was reckoned as fine a sight as any in *London*, and occasioned a constant resort of people of all ranks; who used to admire the neatness of their appearance, and the good management of the house. Dependent on this noble charity is also an house at *Hertford*, where diet, schooling, and lodging, are provided for the younger boys.

4. *St. Bartholomew's* hospital adjoins to *Christ's* hospital: its first foundation may be said to be owing to King *Henry VIII.* whose statue in stone, very well done, is, for that reason, erected in the front, over the entrance in *West-Smithfield*, with two cripples, no mean pieces of sculpture, on the top of the pediment

over

over his head. This hospital has received very great additions of late years, and being now completed, forms a very fine square.

The *Lock* at *Kingsland*, and that in *Southwark*, belong to *St. Bartholomew's* hospital, and are used for poor patients only.

Under the care of this hospital there generally are upwards of 5000 poor sick and lame persons, destitute of other relief.

5. *St. Thomas's* hospital in *Southwark* is also a noble piece of charity, of the like nature with that of *St. Bartholomew*. The church, and most of the hospital, were rebuilt in a beautiful manner, from the year 1701 to 1706. It was founded by *Edward VI.* and inscriptions are set up in it to the honour of *Mr. Guy*, *Mr. Frederick*, *Sir Robert Clayton*, the last of whom has his statue there; as has *King Edward VI.* erected by *Charles Joy*, Esq; late treasurer of this hospital.

6. *Guy's* hospital is situated very near *St. Thomas's*, and is, perhaps, one of the greatest private charities that was ever known. Its founder, *Thomas Guy*, was a bookseller in *Lombard-street*; he lived to see this work in great forwardness, and at his death, anno 1724, left about 200,000*l.* to finish and endow it. *Mr. Guy* actually divested himself of 80,000*l.* in his life-time towards this hospital, which was established many years before his death, though since, by his bequest, so greatly enlarged, that a new wing is now building, and almost finished. His statue is erected in the principal square.

Though this hospital is said to be for incurables, it is not for such as are absolutely so; for the founder used to say, That he would not have his hospital made an alms-house.

Over and above the 200,000*l.* left to this hospital, the founder bequeathed as many legacies, and other dispositions,

dispositions, as were computed to amount to near 150,000 *l.* more.

7. The *London Workhouse*, as it is called, founded on an act of parliament passed in the 13th year of King *Charles II.* is situated without *Bishopsgate*, and is an edifice consisting of several work-rooms and lodging-rooms, for vagrants and parish-children.

They have an handsome chapel built at the upper end of the yard belonging to the house, where they go to prayers twice a day, at seven in the morning and seven in the evening. On *Sundays* they all go to *St. Helen's*, in *Bishopsgate-street*, where they have seats.

The charity-schools and workhouses set up in almost every parish of this prodigious city, have in some measure pursued the design of this laudable workhouse; and if they have thereby interfered with it, and taken off some benefactions that otherwise might have flowed into that canal, it will be the less to be regretted.

8. The hospital called the *Charter-house*, or *Sutton's* hospital, must be recorded to be the greatest and noblest gift that ever was given for charity, by any one man, public or private, in this nation, since history gives us any account of things, except we give a preference to that of *Mr. Guy*; the revenue of *Mr. Sutton's* hospital being, besides the purchase of the place, and the building of the house, and other expences, little less than 6000 *l.* per ann.

The royal hospitals of *Greenwich* and *Chelsea* are taken notice of in their proper places.

The *Greycoat* and *Greencoat* hospital in *Tothill-fields*; *Emanuel* hospital, *Westminster*; that for the poor of the *French* refugees, near *Old-street*; the *Ironmongers* alms-houses, near *Shoreditch*; *Alderman Ask's* at *Hoxton*; those stately ones of the *Trinity* house; the *Vintners*, and several others, in the way to *Mile-end*; as also that handsome one, lately erected

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ed by the will of Mr. *Francis Bancroft*, a lord mayor's officer, in the same road; all deserve particular mention, had I room for it.

But I must in particular mention those useful charities, the two infirmaries, one in *James's-street*, *Westminster*, and the other at *Hyde-park Corner*, which have given birth to the like laudable institutions in other parts of the kingdom. The design of them is, to supply the places of the hospitals of *St. Bartholomew* and *St. Thomas's* afore-mentioned; where the best order is observed, the best medicines dispensed, and the best assistances given, as well by physicians, as surgeons and apothecaries, to all who are admitted into these charities.

In *Lamb's Conduit-fields*, fronting the north end of *Red-Lion-street*, *Holborn*, stands the hospital for deserted and exposed children, commonly called the *Foundling-Hospital*. This building consists of two large wings, connected by a chapel in the center, one wing being for the boys, and the other for the girls. They are directly opposite to each other, and are built in a plain but regular, substantial, and convenient manner, of brick, with handsome piazzas. It is well suited to the purpose, and is as elegant as hospitals should be. At the further end is placed the chapel, which is joined to the wings by an arch on each side, and is very elegant within. Before the hospital is a large piece of ground, on each side whereof is a colonnade of great length, which extend towards the gates; the large area between which and the hospital is adorned with grass plats, gravel walks, and ranges of lamps. Behind all are two convenient gardens, from which the house is supplied with vegetables.

In erecting these buildings, particular care was taken to render them neat and substantial, without any costly decorations; but the first wing of the hospital was scarcely inhabited, when several eminent masters in painting, carving, and other of the polite

arts, were pleased to contribute many elegant ornaments, which are preserved as monuments of the abilities and charitable benefactions of the respective artists.

The altar-piece in the chapel has a painting over it, finely executed by an *Italian* artist, representing the *Wise Men* making their offering to the infant *Jesus*.

From three years old to six, the boys are taught to read, and at proper intervals employed in such manner as may contribute to their health, and induce a habit of activity, hardiness, and labour. From that time, their work is to be adapted to their age and strength, and such as may fit them for agriculture, or the sea-service. Many of them are employed in the gardens belonging to the hospital, where, by their labour, they supply the house with vegetables; and being instructed in gardening, are kept in readiness for such persons as may be inclined to take them into their service.

From six years of age, the girls are employed in common needle-work, knitting, and spinning, and in the kitchen, laundry, and household work, in order to make useful servants to such as may apply for them. This noble charity was first established, by royal charter, in the year 1739.

To the account of those hospitals already given, I might add many others, such as the *Middlesex*, the *London*, the *St. Luke's*, &c. the *Asylum*, *Magdalen-house*, and the different hospitals for lying-in women, for the relief of widows, &c. as well as that laudable institution of the *Marine-Society*; but as these matters are copiously treated of in other works, more particularly adapted to that purpose, I shall only observe, in general, that those noble foundations, added to innumerable alms-houses, which are to be seen in almost every part of *London*, make it certain, that there is no city in the world can shew the like number of charities

charities from private hands, there being many thousands of people maintained, besides the charities of schooling for children, and the collections made at the annual feasts of several kinds, where money is given for putting out children apprentices, &c. a great number of which owe their rise to the period of time included in fifty years past.

VI. *Of the Churches of London, Westminster, and Southwark.*

THERE are within the walls of *London*, 97 parishes; without the walls, 17; the out-parishes in *Middlesex* and *Surry*, within the bills of mortality, 22; and in the city and liberty of *Westminster*, 10; in all, 146. We shall, as briefly as possible, touch upon the most remarkable churches.

We must observe, in the first place, That the churches in *London* are rather convenient than fine, not adorned with pomp and pageantry, as in *Papish* countries; but, like the true Protestant plainness, have very little ornament either within or without.

But the most famous of all the churches in the city, and of all the Protestant churches in the world, is the cathedral of *St. Paul*; an edifice exceedingly beautiful and magnificent, with the fewest faults of any building of the like nature and extent; though its dress is at this time a little out of fashion. Some, who would be thought to have skill in architecture, are pleased to censure it for its heaviness; but that objection, upon due consideration, will appear ill-founded.

The vast extent of the horizontal arch of the cupola, which supports a stone lanthorn near 70 feet high, may well account for the strength of the eight piers which support the whole of that prodigious weight. And though common observers assert, that

those, as well as the piers of all the arches within-side, are too thick and heavy, yet, whoever knows any thing of the rules of architecture, must allow them to be as slender as the strictness of those rules would admit of; for the thickness of each pier is not one-third part of the void of each arch. And those which support the dome, when compared with those that support the cupola of *St. Peter's* at *Rome*, come out to be but one-third part of the bigness of the latter, the one measuring 240 feet in circumference, the other not quite 80; yet the difference in the dimensions and weight of the two cupolas is nothing in proportion to that of the piers; and, upon the whole, *St. Paul's* is much less liable to the objection of being heavy than *St. Peter's*.

Indeed *Gothic* architecture, which is more familiar to some persons than the other, admits of an extravagant airiness and lightness. In that sort of building, the designer is bound down to no rules of proportion but what his own fancy suggests; whereas, in the other, dimensions so universally followed, cannot be deviated from. The height of every arch hath a fixed proportion to its breadth; the doors, windows, and their ornaments, have the same; the intercolumniations, and their entablatures, are all confined to certain admeasurements. But where is that exactness observed in any *Gothic* structure *? It must be allowed, there are some of those buildings, that, in the whole, look very august and venerable; yet, let any one view the vast buttresses round the

* "If these dimensions (says a gentleman, to whom I am indebted for many valuable corrections in this edition, 1778) are so exactly settled in *Grecian* architecture, and not in *Gothic*, how much greater must be the merit of the deservedly-admired *chef-d'œuvres* of the latter?—*St. Paul's* is too narrow, and the massifs too solid and heavy to be agreeable. The *French* say, no church with transepts, and a cupola supported with pillars, has yet been built. They promise much merit from the execution of this plan in two churches at *Paris*, *S. Viséaire* and *S. Genevieve*.

outside of *Westminster-Abbey*, and see what a croud of lines and breaks they occasion in the perspective, and they will then easily account for the lightness of the inside of that church; for those buttresses, by extending so far out, support the whole structure, more than its walls or pillars. This is mentioned for the sake of common observers only; for to the judicious it is altogether unnecessary.

Sir *Christopher Wren* had the satisfaction to find his work approved by the best masters in *Europe*, who allowed, that the church of *St. Peter's* at *Rome*, which is the most stupendous structure in the world, only exceeds *St. Paul's* with respect to its huge dimensions, its rich mosaic work, the beautiful marble, of which both its outside and inside entirely consist, the latter in different colours, its statues, paintings, gildings, altars, and oratories.

The expence of this magnificent structure, as it was laid before the parliament *anno 1711*, including the building of the chapter-house near it, purchasing of property, together with the estimate of what was necessary to complete the whole, in which was included a ring of twelve bells, not yet put up, nor cast, as also the furniture for the choir, amounted to 810,380*l.* 4*s.*

This able architect, Sir *Christopher Wren*, at the first setting about the church, would have had its situation removed a little to the north, to stand just on the spot of ground which is taken up by *Pater-noster-Row*, and the buildings on either side; so that the north side of the church should have stood open to *Newgate-street*, and the south side to the ground on which the church now stands.

By this situation, the east end of the church would have looked directly down the main street of the city, *Cheapside*; and for the west end, *Ludgate* having been removed a little north, the main street called *Ludgate-street*, and *Ludgate-hill*, would only have

sloped a little W. S. W. irregularly two ways, one within, and the other without the gate; and all the street beyond *Fleet-bridge* would have received no alteration at all.

By this situation, the common thoroughfare of the city would have been removed at a little further distance from the work, and we should not then have been obliged to walk just under the very wall, as we do now, which makes the work appear out of all perspective, and is the chief reason of the objections I have mentioned, as to the outside appearance; whereas, had it been viewed at a little distance, the building would have been seen infinitely to more advantage.

Had Sir *Christopher* been allowed this situation, he would then also have had more room for the ornament of the west end, which, though a most beautiful work, would then have been much more so; and he would have added a circular piazza to it, after the model of that at *Rome*, but much more magnificent; and an obelisk of marble in the center of the circle, exceeding any thing that the world can shew of its kind, of modern work.

But the circumstance of things hindered this noble design; and the city being almost rebuilt before he obtained an order and provision for laying the foundation, he was prescribed to the narrow spot where it now stands, in which the building, however magnificent in itself, stands with great disadvantage as to the prospect of it. The inconveniences of this were so apparent when the church was finished, that leave was at length, though not without difficulty, obtained, to pull down one whole row of houses on the north side of the body of the church, to make way for the noble ballustrade of cast iron, raised upon an handsome stone wall of above a yard high, that surrounds the church-yard; and, indeed, to admit light
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into the church, as well as to preserve it from the danger of fire.

Of the other churches, the most remarkable are, *Covent-garden*; the churches of *St. Mary le Bow*, and *St. Bride's*; the two latter for having the finest steeples in the world; especially *Bow*. The inside of the church of *St. Stephen Walbrook* is admired by every foreigner. The contrivance and beauty of other churches, considering how they were obliged, unavoidably, to be thrust up in corners, and odd angles, is amazingly fine.

The new churches at *Limehouse*, *Ratcliffe-highway*, *Spitalfields*, *Old-street*, the *Strand*, *Ormond-street*, *Hanover-square*, the *Horse-ferry*, *St. Mary Woolnoth*, *Bishopsgate*, *St. Leonard Shoreditch*, *St. Catharine Coleman*, *St. Martin in the Fields*, *St. Giles*, and that in *Bloomsbury*, I can only mention. But the latter, I must observe, was the first building wherein was introduced a portico after the manner of the ancient temples. The body of the church is a masterly performance; but the placing, for a weathercock, the statue of a prince famous for good sense and steadiness, is an absurdity peculiar to the church of *Bloomsbury*.

That incomparable piece, called *The Banqueting-house* at *Whitehall*, is now made use of as a chapel. It was designed by *Inigo Jones*, as one pavilion of the admirable model he gave for a palace. And if this specimen has justly commanded the admiration of mankind, what would the finished piece have done! Here is strength and politeness, ornament with simplicity, and beauty with majesty. It is, without dispute, one of the noblest structures in the world. The cieling is an admirable piece of painting by *Rubens*. It is to be hoped, *Britain* will one day have the glory to accomplish it, according to this plan, and then it will far exceed any palace in the universe.

The abbey, or collegiate church of *Westminster*, is
a venerable

a venerable old pile of building; but now appears with a new face, to what it did some years ago; for two towers are erected at the west end. The west window, between these towers, is very beautiful; and the window also fronting *King-street*, finished in the deanry of the late Bishop *Atterbury*, is one of the finest modern performances of its kind.

This building, however, though very extensive, is far less elegant than several other *Gothic* structures: its outside can never be made beautiful; and within, it is extravagantly out of proportion, with regard to the height and breadth of the middle nef and side-aisles. The high altar within is a noble piece, and had a wonderful fine effect from the west door, before the organ, erected some few years ago, intercepted its view.

This abbey is the repository of the deceased *British* kings and nobility, and very fine monuments are seen over some of their graves.

The monarchs of *Great Britain* are crowned here.

Churches in *Southwark*.

1. The church of *St. Mary*, vulgarly called *St. Mary Overy*, and *St. Saviour*, in *Southwark*. It is a venerable *Gothic* pile, having two aisles running from east to west, and a cross aisle, after the manner of a cathedral.

2. The church of *St. George Southwark* is new-built, but with a mean steeple.

3. *St. Thomas's* is a neat and convenient edifice.

4. *St. Olave's* is also new built.

5. *St. John's*, vulgarly called *Horsleydown* church, is one of the fifty new ones.

6. The church of *St. Mary Magdalen Bermondsey* is a neat structure.

7. *Christ-Church* is new built; as is also,

8. *Rotherhith-Church*.

VII. *Of St. James's Palace, the Parliament-House, Westminster-Hall, &c.*

THE palace of *St. James's*, though the winter receptacle of all the pomp and glory of this kingdom, is really mean, in comparison of the glorious court of *Great Britain*. The splendor of the nobility, the wealth and greatness of the attendants, the economy of the house, and the real grandeur of the whole royal family, outdo all the courts of *Europe*; and yet this palace comes beneath those of the most petty princes in it; although there cannot be in the world a nobler situation for a royal palace than *Whitehall*. And it is with some concern, that we see so fine a spot become a sacrifice to private spirit, so much of it being given away to particular families, as makes more remote, than we might otherwise expect, the hope of seeing a palace built there, worthy of the glory of our monarchs.

Many plans have been drawn for the rebuilding of this palace; but the most celebrated draughts are those of *Inigo Jones*, and may be seen in *Mr. Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus*, and *Mr. Kent's* edition of *Jones's* works. The last of these, if executed, would, for magnificence and beauty, transcend even the temple of *Solomon*, if we are to form a judgment from the plans given of that famous edifice. But it is a question, whether the expence would not exceed that of *St. Peter's* at *Rome*, which cost forty millions of *Roman* crowns.

As the court is now stated, all the offices and places for business are scattered about, here and there.

The parliament meets, as they used to do while the court was at *Westminster*, in the King's old palace; nor can it be said but the place is made tolerably convenient for them. The house of commons meet

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in the chapel of the palace at *Westminster*, dedicated to *St. Stephen*, and fitted for this purpose by *Sir Christopher Wren*.

The house of lords is a venerable old apartment, and hung with tapestry, representing the defeat of the *Spanish armada*.

Westminster-Hall, a noble *Gothic* building, in which are held the courts of justice, is said to be the largest room in the world, being near 300 feet long, and 70 feet wide. Here is held the coronation-feast of the kings and queens of *England*; also the courts of chancery, king's-bench, and common-pleas; and above stairs, that of the exchequer.

Adjoining to the hall are kept the numerous offices belonging to the exchequer of *England*, some of them very dark and inconvenient, and such as to a stranger would afford no very remote idea (particularly in some of the avenues from office to office) of the dismal mansions to which money-transactions are thought often to bring the devoted subjects of *Plutus*.

VIII. *Of the Statues, and other public Ornaments, in and about the cities of London and Westminster.*

THIS article we insert rather for the sake of the number of the statues, &c. than their excellence; though some of them must be allowed to be valuable.

The brass statue of *King James II.* in the habit of a *Roman Cæsar*, in the *Privy-garden* at *Whitehall*, is a beautiful one, and can hardly be outdone by any modern performance of that kind in *Europe*.

A fine brass bust of *King Charles I.* done by *Panini*, a famous *Italian* master of sculpture, is placed over the passage at the upper end of *Westminster-hall*, adjoining to the court of king's-bench, which, though little observed, is very curious.

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The statue of brass of King *Charles I.* on horse-back, at *Charing-cross*, is a curious piece, though not perfect, according to the notion of some critics.

At *St. Paul's*, the figures of the *Apostles* and *Evangelists*, on the west, north, and south fronts; and in the middle of the area, the statue of her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, at full length, crowned, with a sceptre in one hand, and a globe in the other, round the pedestal of which are the figures of *Britannia*, *France* (in a pensive attitude,) *Ireland*, and *America*; *St. Paul*, with a group of other figures expressing his conversion, are finely done in alto-relievo, over the door in the west front.

On the front of the hall of the *College of Physicians*, toward the court, is a statue of King *Charles II.* well cut in stone. On the west-side of the theatre is also the statue of Sir *John Cutler*, carved in stone. A fine busto of Dr. *Harvey*, who first discovered the circulation of the blood, is also erected in the front of the hall, at the expence of the late Dr. *Richard Mead*.

In the front of *St. Bartholomew's* hospital, next *Smithfield*, which is a very handsome gate-way, is a statue of King *Henry VIII.* done in a good taste.

In the *Royal Exchange*, the statues of *Edward I.* *Edward III.* *Henry V.* *Henry VI.* *Edward IV.* *Edward V.* *Henry VII.* *Henry VIII.* *Edward VI.* *Mary I.* *Elizabeth*, *James I.* *Charles I.* *Charles II.* *James II.* *William III.* and *Mary II.* *Anne*, *George I.* *George II.* and *III.* Also on the south-side are two fine statues of *Charles I.* and *Charles II.* A statue of King *Charles II.* in a *Roman* habit, in the center of the area, is a noble performance. Also a statue of Sir *Thomas Gresham*; and now, lately, another erected near it, in honour of Sir *John Barnard*, one of the worthiest and ablest representatives that ever the city of *London* sent to parliament. But if these two were the finest in the world (as they certainly are not) the place

where they are fixed would conceal their beauty, and they might as well be placed in a cellar.

The two figures over the gate to *Bethlehem* hospital, one representing a person melancholy mad, the other one raving, are inimitable performances, by Mr. *Cibber*, father of the late laureat.

In *St. Thomas's* hospital, *Southwark*, a statue of Sir *Robert Clayton*, in marble; another in brass of *Edward VI.*

In Mr. *Guy's* hospital, a statue in brass of that gentleman.

A good statue of *Charles II.* in brass, in a *Roman* habit, is in the quadrangle before *Chelsea College*.

In the public office of the bank is a curious marble statue of *William III.* its royal founder, with an inscription to his honour.

Before I quit this article, I must here mention, that in the road a little south from *Black-friars* bridge, is a substantial stone obelisk, with the mensuration of its distance from some neighbouring places. But this is very trifling, with respect to what might so easily be done in this way, by means of the pillar in the intersection of *Ludgate* and *Fleet-street*, *Bridge-street* and *Fleet-market*, as these four ways go east, west, north and south, and, when the northern approach to the bridge, by a fine straight street shall be completed, will pierce this great city in the most perfect and beautiful manner. This stone should be considered as the center of all the *British* roads, and its distances from the *Land's End* every way marked on the sides of the corner houses fronting the spectator. A first, second and third mile-stone should be put up along the streets, on each side of the way, and the old mile-stones in the country altered to continue their mensuration. At present, every road begins its measurement from a different point, as the *Dover* road from *London-bridge*, the great western road from *Hyde-park* corner, &c.

IX. *Of the Gates of London and Westminster.*

THE gates of the city of *London* were seven, besides posterns.

Ludgate was a prison for debt, for freemen of the city only. It is now taken down, in order to open the passage for the convenience of both cities.

Newgate is a prison for criminals, both in *London* and *Middlesex*, and for debtors also for *Middlesex*, being the county goal. By a late act of parliament the old goal is pulled down, and a new one erected, which is a grand structure, being much larger, stronger, and more commodious and healthy for its unfortunate inhabitants, with a new and convenient *Sessions* house, all built with *Portland* stone, on the spot between *Old Newgate* and *Surgeons-hall* in the *Old Bailey*.

Moorgate was a beautiful gate-way, the arch being near 20 feet high, for the city trained bands to march through with their pikes advanced, which are now disused. It has likewise been pulled down, and several large houses built near the site of it.

Cripplegate was very old and mean, and is now taken down.

Bishopsgate, though newly rebuilt, yet not with the least elegance, is also taken down.

Aldersgate and *Aldgate* made handsome appearances: but were (in 1761) both taken down, as well as *Ludgate*, *Cripplegate*, and *Bishopsgate*.

Temple-bar is the only gate now left standing, erected at the extent of the city; and this was occasioned by some needful ceremonies, as at the proclaiming any King or Queen of *England*, at which time the gates are shut. The herald at arms knocks hard at the door; the sheriffs of the city call back, asking, Who is there? Then the herald answers, *I come to proclaim*

claim, &c. according to the name of the Prince who is to succeed to the crown, and repeating the titles of *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, &c. at which the sheriffs open, and bid them welcome; they then go on to the *Exchange*, where they make the last proclamation.

There was formerly another gate belonging to the city of *London*, called the *Postern Gate*, at *Tower-hill*; but, being partly demolished by time, it is now turned into private buildings.

Westminster had no less than five gates, and all within a small compass of ground; as, first, The noble Gothic gate at *Whitehall*, very lately taken down, though long left standing for the beauty of its workmanship; said to be a design of *Holbein's*, and that the late Duke of *Cumberland* carried the materials to *Windfor*, and there set them up again: secondly, a gate a little farther, where *King-street* begins, which was a good old structure, and pulled down a few years ago to enlarge the passage; thirdly, a gate where now *Union-street* is, communicating *King-street* with the *New Palace-yard*. This has been several years demolished; fourthly, a gate leading from *New Palace-yard* to *St. Margaret's-lane*, which has been lately pulled down, to enlarge that passage by which the King goes to the House of Lords; fifthly, the *Gate-house*, near the west end of the Abbey; which is an old building, used for the public gaol of the city of *Westminster*. This too is pulled down, and great improvements are making, by opening new or enlarging old avenues.

To these we may also add, the *Water-gate* at *Westminster*, in *New Palace-yard*, near which the noble bridge I have described is erected.

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X. *Of the Markets of London.*

AMONG these, that of *Smithfield* for cattle is, without question, the greatest in the world: it would be a difficult matter to make any certain calculation of the numbers of horses, oxen, cows, calves, sheep, &c. sold in this market, which is held every *Monday* and *Friday*.

There is also a great market, or rather fair, for horses, in *Smithfield*, every *Friday* in the afternoon, where very great numbers of horses, and sometimes those of the highest price, are sold weekly.

The flesh-markets are *Leaden-hall*, *Honey-lane*, *Newgate*, the *Fleet*, *Clare*, *Shadwell*, *Southwark*, *Westminster*, *Spitalfields*, *Whitechapel*, *Brookes*, *Bloomsbury*, *Newport*, *St. James's*, *Carnaby*, *Oxford*, *Hungerford*; and another held on *Monday*, *Wednesday*, and *Friday*, weekly, at *Brook-field* by *May-fair*, in the parish of *St. George*, *Hanover-square*, for meat, herbage, &c. That of *Westminster* is newly built over-against the Abbey, towards the *Park*.

At all these markets, a part is set by for a *Fish-market*, and a part for an *Herb-market*; notwithstanding which, there are the following particular fish and Herb-markets; viz.

Fish markets at *Billinggate*, *Fish-street-hill*, and *Old Fish-street*.

Herb markets, *Covent-garden*, and, some years ago, *Stocks-market*, which was removed to *Fleet-ditch*, to make room for the Mansion-house for the Lord Mayor.

Stocks-market, when it was in being, was the most considerable in the world, for all sorts of esculent herbs.

At the *Three Cranes* are also markets for cherries, apples, and other fruits.

Meal-

Meal-markets, at *Queenhithe*, *Hungerford*, and *Ditchside*.

Hay-markets, at *Whitechapel*, *Smithfield*, *Southwark*, the *Haymarket-street*, *Westminster*, and *Bloomsbury*.

Leather-market, at *Leaden-hall*.

Hides and skins, at *Leaden-hall* and *Wood's-cloffe*.

Coal-markets, at *Rome-land*, and *Coal Exchange*.

Bay-market, at *Leaden-hall*.

Broad-cloth-market, at *Blackwell-hall*.

The last three are, without doubt, the greatest in the world of those kinds.—There are moreover multitudes of coal-merchants, who have coal-wharfs, from the *Hermitage* one way, to the *Horse-ferry*, *Westminster*, another, which may be deemed so many markets.

The great market called *Leaden-hall* (of which a *Spanish* ambassador said, There was as much meat sold in it in one month, as would suffice all *Spain* for a year) contains three large squares, every square having several outlets into divers streets, and all into one another. The first, and chief, is called, the *Beef-market*. In this square, every *Wednesday*, is kept a market for raw hides, tanned leather, and shoemakers tools; and in the warehouses, up stairs, on the east and south sides of the square, is the great market for *Colchester* bays.

The second square is divided into two oblongs: in the first is the fish market, and in the other a market for country higlers, who bring pork, butter, eggs, pigs, rabbits, fowls, &c.

In the north part of the fish market, the place being too large for the fishmongers use, are the stalls of the town butchers for mutton and veal, the best and largest of which, that *England* can produce, are to be bought there; and the east part is a flesh-market for country butchers.

The third and last square, which is also very large,

is divided into three parts: round the circumference is the butter-market, with all the sorts of higlery goods, as before; the south part is the poultry-market, and the bacon-market; and the center is an herb-market. And many more conveniencies and additions lately made to this prodigious market, which we have not room to particularize.

All the other markets follow the same method, in proportion to the room they have for it.

There are two corn-markets, *viz.* *Mark-lane* and *Queenbith*. The *Corn-Exchange* in *Mark-lane* is an elegant modern building; and here are sold immense quantities of corn that are brought by sea, from the counties which lie commodious for that carriage. Here corn may be said not to be sold by horse-loads, or cart-loads, but by ship-loads; and, except the corn-chambers and magazines in *Holland*, when the fleets come in from *Dantzick* and *England*, the whole world cannot equal the quantity bought and sold here; for no quantity can be wanted either for home consumption, or for foreign exportation, but the corn-factors, who are the managers of this market, are ready to supply it.

Queenbith is chiefly for malt; the barley of which takes up the ground of so many hundred thousand acres of land in the counties of *Surry*, *Bucks*, *Berks*, *Oxford*, *Southampton*, and *Wilts*, and is called west country malt.

It is true, a very great quantity of malt, and of other corn too, is brought to some other places on the river, and sold there; *viz.* to *Milford-lane*, above the bridge, and the *Hermitage*, below the bridge; but this is, in general, a branch of the trade of the other places.

It must not be omitted, that *Queenbith* is also a very great market for meal, as well as malt, and, perhaps, the greatest in *England*.

The next market, which is more than ordinary
remark-

remarkable, is kept every morning at the Coal-Exchange at *Billingsgate*. The spot on which the Exchange now stands, was formerly called *Romeland*, but from what original it derived that name, history is now silent.

The city of *London*, and parts adjacent, as also the south of *England*, are supplied with coals, by sea, called therefore *Sea-coal*, from *Newcastle upon Tyne*, and from the coast of *Durham* and *Northumberland*. This trade is esteemed the great nursery of our seamen. I shall have occasion to say more of it in my account of the northern parts of *England*. The quantity of coals, which, one year with another, are burnt and consumed in and about this city, is supposed to be about 800,000 chaldrons, every chaldron containing 36 bushels, and generally weighing 3000 weight.

Most of these coals are bought and sold at the Exchange; and though sometimes, especially in case of a war, or of contrary winds, a fleet from 500 to 700 sail of ships comes up the river at a time, yet they never want a market. The brokers of these coals are called *Crimps*; the vessels they load these ships with at *Newcastle*, *Keels*; and the ships that bring them, *Cats*, and *Hags*, or *Hag-boats*, *Fly-boats*, and the like *.

It must be observed, that as the city of *London* occasions the consumption of so great a quantity of corn and coals, so the measurement of them is under the inspection of the lord mayor and court of aldermen, and for the direction of it, there is allowed a certain number of corn-meters, and coal-meters, whose places are for life, and bring them in a very considerable income.

* That able and worthy commander, Captain *Cook*, has determined from the fullest experience, that these strong roomy vessels, which draw little water in proportion to their bulk, are the fittest ships for making discoveries in the most distant parts.

They have abundance of poor men employed under them, who are also called meters, and are, or ought to be, freemen of the city.

This is, indeed, a kind of tax, as well upon the goods as corn; but the buyer is abundantly recompensed, by being ascertained in his measure; for the sworn meters are so placed between the buyer and the seller, and have so many eyes upon them (being besides men of character,) that there is hardly ever any room for complaint on this head.

XI. *Of the public Schools and Libraries, the British Museum, and other establishments, tending to promote learning and science.*

THE Royal Society, in Crane-court, Fleet-street; the Royal Free-school, at Westminster, founded by Queen Elizabeth, is not outdone even by those of Winchester and Eton, for the excellent scholars it has produced, and is in a very flourishing condition.

St. Paul's school, founded by Dr. Colet, dean of St. Paul's, is a fine foundation for 153 boys, to be taught gratis.

Merchant-Taylors school, in Suffolk-lane, Thames-street, was founded by Sir Thomas White, founder of St. John's college, Oxon, for 100 scholars to be taught gratis, 100 more for half a crown, and another 100 for five shillings a quarter; and has 46 fellowships established in St. John's college, for scholars elected from this school.

Another excellent school was founded at Mercers-chapel, by that company.

To say nothing of the noble foundation of the Charter-house, mentioned before, and of upwards of 70 charity-schools, upheld by the benevolent contributions of charitable persons; nor of the mathematical and other schools at Christ's hospital; nor of the libraries

braries of the *Temple* and other Inns of court, that of *Castle-yard*, near the *Mews*, &c.

In *Redcross-street*, near *Cripplegate*, an handsome building was erected *Anno* 1727, by the late Dr. *Daniel Williams*, a dissenting teacher, for a public library for the use of the dissenting ministers of *London*.

The professors of the college founded by Sir *Thomas Gresham*, in *Bishopsgate-street*, 1581, who read lectures at four o'clock every afternoon during term-time, in divinity, astronomy, geometry, rhetoric, physic, music.

The *Antiquary* society, incorporated Nov. 2, 1751. Their anniversary, *St. George's-day*; place of meeting, *Chancery-lane*.

The society for promoting *Christian* knowledge, 1698, *Bartlett's-Buildings*, *Holborn*. It oversees all the charity-schools, distributes religious books and tracts, and supports the protestant mission in the *East-Indies*, jointly with the King of *Denmark*.

The society for propagating the gospel in foreign parts, incorporated by charter 1701, meets at *St. Martin's* library, near the *Mews*, *Charing-cross*. The members are trustees for *Codrington* college in *Cambridge*. The Rev. Dr. *Edward Young*, of *Wellwyn*, *Hertfordshire*, generously gave 1000 guineas for promoting its worthy ends.

The library at *Sion* college, *London wall*, founded by *Thomas White*, D. D. 1623, and incorporated by King *Charles II*.

Society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, instituted 1753. A most laudable and prosperous institution.

The valuable collection, called the *Cotton Library*, is so well known, that we shall only further mention the great disaster that befel it in the year 1731, when a fire happened, which burnt and defaced a great number of valuable manuscripts; but most happily

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was discovered and extinguished, before it made so great a destruction as was at first apprehended.

The *British Museum*, which consists of Sir *Hans Sloane's* famous collection of curiosities and natural productions; his library of printed books, his manuscripts, all together costing him more than 50,000*l.* which he directed to be offered to the parliament for 10,000*l.* and was accepted on these terms: *The Cottonian Library* being joined to it, the whole required so much room, that *Montague-house* in *Bloomsbury*, a very noble and roomy mansion, was purchased, as a fit repository for so valuable a treasure. Another famous library of printed books and MSS. has been also purchased by the public, and added to the above, collected by the late earl of *Oxford*, called *The Harleian Library*.

The names and numbers of the several things contained in Sir *Hans Sloane's* collection only are as follow:

1. The library, which, including about 347 vols. of drawings and illuminated books, 3506 vols. of MSS. together with the books of prints, consists of about 50,000 vols.

2. Medals.

3. Seals, &c. 268.

4. Cameo's, intaglio's, &c. about 700.

5. Precious stones, agates, jaspers, &c. 2256.

6. Vessels, &c. of agates, jaspers, &c. 542.

7. Crystals, spars, &c. 1864.

8. Fossils, flints, stones, &c. 1275.

9. Metals, mineral ores, &c. 2725.

10. Earths, sands, salts, &c. 1035.

11. Bitumens, sulphurs, ambers, ambergris, &c.

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12. Paleæ, micæ, 388.

13. Testacea, or shells, 5848.

14. Corals, sponges, &c. 1421.

15. Echini, echinites, &c. 659.

16. Asse-

16. Asteriæ, trochi, entrochi, &c. 241.
17. Crustacea, or crabs, &c. 368.
18. Stellæ marinæ, &c. 178.
19. Fishes, and their parts, 1555.
20. Birds, and their parts; eggs, and nests of different species, 1172.
21. Vipers, serpents, &c. 521.
22. Quadrupedes, &c. 1886.
23. Insects, 5439.
24. Humana, as calculi, anatomical preparations, &c. 756.
25. Vegetables, as seeds, gums, woods, roots, &c. 12,506.
26. Hortus ficcus, or vols. of dried plants, 334.
27. Miscellaneous things, natural, &c. 2093.
28. Pictures and drawings, &c. framed, 301.
29. Mathematical instruments, 55.

All the above particulars are entered and numbered, with short accounts of them, and references of several writers, who have hitherto written about them, in 38 vols. in folio, and eight in quarto.

It is certain, that a treasure like to this, exclusive of the adding the King's and the *Harleian* libraries, was never before amassed together; nor can such an one ever be compiled again, unless such another almost miraculous combination of causes should appear to give it origin: unless Providence again should join together in one mortal being so much true knowledge, and so great benevolence; such talents, and such affluence of fortune; and should again extend the life of him, who was possessed of them, almost to the age of a patriarch.

The Archbishop of *Canterbury*, the Lord High Chancellor, and the Speaker of the House of Commons, have the nomination of all the officers, assistants, and servants, in the Museum.

Feb. 23, 1756. A committee of the trustees of the *British Museum* waited on the executors of the late

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late Colonel *Lethieullier*, to return thanks for the valuable legacy left to the public by that gentleman; being a fine mummy, and a curious collection of Egyptian antiquities. On this occasion *Pitt Lethieullier*, Esq; nephew to the Colonel, presented them with several antiquities, which he himself had collected, during his residence at *Grand Cairo*; and as in addition to the *Cottonian* library, Mrs. *Maddox*, relict to the late Mr. *Maddox*, historiographer royal, left by her will her husband's large and valuable collection of MSS. which had engaged his attention for many years; and which are said to afford materials for a complete History of Tenures, which is much wanted.

His Majesty, in the year 1757, was graciously pleased to present to the *British Museum*, that fine collection of books and MSS. commonly known by the name of the *King's Library*, which was founded by *Henry*, Prince of *Wales*, eldest son of King *James I.* amounting to about 10,200, and the manuscripts about 1800; which, till the fire that happened Oct. 3, 1731, were kept in the same house with *The Cotton Library*; on which occasion they were removed to the old *Dormitory, Westminster*, and now to the *Museum*.

III. *Of the Shipping in the Thames, and the Trade carried on by means of that noble River.*

THE whole river, from *London-bridge* to *Blackwall*, is one great arsenal: nothing in the world like it. The great building-yards at *Sardam*, near *Amsterdam*, are said to outdo it in the number of ships which are built there; and they tell us, that there are more ships generally seen at *Amsterdam*, than in the *Thames*.

I will not say, but that there may be more vessels built at *Sardam*, and the parts adjacent, than in the river *Thames*; but then it must be observed,

1. That

1. That the *English* build for themselves principally, the *Dutch* for all the world.

2. That almost all the ships the *Dutch* have are built there, whereas not one fifth part of our shipping is built in the *Thames*.

3. That we see more vessels in less room at *Amsterdam*; but, setting aside their hoys, bilanders, and schouts, which are in great numbers always there, being vessels peculiar to their inland and coasting navigation, you do not see more, nor near so many ships of force at *Amsterdam*, as at *London*.

That part of the river *Thames*, which is properly the harbour, and where the ships usually deliver, or unload the cargoes, is called the *Pool*; and begins at the turning of the river out of *Limehouse Reach*, and extends to the *Custom-house* quay. In this compass I have had the curiosity to count the ships as well as I could, *en passant*, and have found about 2000 sail of all sorts, not reckoning barges, lighters, or pleasure boats, and yachts, but of vessels that really go to sea.

It is true, the river, or *Pool*, seemed at that time to be pretty full of ships; as also that I included the ships which lay in *Deptford* and *Blackwall* reaches, and in the wet docks; but then I did not include the men of war at the King's-yard, and at the wet dock at *Deptford*, which were not a few.

In the river there are, from *Battle-bridge*, on the *Southwark* side; and the *Hermitage-bridge*, on the city side, reckoning to *Blackwall*, inclusive;

Several wet docks for laying up

Between 20 and 30 dry docks for repairing

Between 20 and 30 yards for building

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Including the buildings of lighters, hoys, &c. but excluding all boat-builders, wherry-builders; and, above bridge, barge-builders.

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ines of all manner of naval stores, for the furnishing those builders, would be endless.

XIII. *Of the manner by which the City is supplied with Water.*

NO city in the world is so well furnished with water as *London*, for the necessary occasions here, as well as for the extinguishing of fires, when they happen.

1. By the great convenience of water, which being every-where laid in the streets in large timber pipes, as well from the *Thames* as the *New River*, those pipes are furnished with a fire-plug, of which the parish-officers have the key; and when opened, let out, not a pipe, but, as one may say, a river of water into the streets; so that making but a dam in the channel, the whole street is immediately under water to supply the engines.

2. By the great number of admirable-engines, of which almost every parish has one, and some halls also, and several private citizens, have them of their own; so that no sooner does a fire break out, but the house is immediately surrounded with engines, and a flood of water poured upon it, till it is extinguished. However, in spite of all these regulations, there have been too many instances of fires getting a great head before water could be procured.

3. The several insurance offices, of which I have before spoken, have each of them a certain set of men, whom they keep in constant pay, and furnish with tools proper for their work, and to whom they give jack caps, of leather, able to keep them from hurt, if brick or timber, or any thing not of so great a bulk, should fall upon them. These men, whom they call fire-men, make it their business to be ready at call, all hours, to assist in case of fire; and it must be acknowledged, they are very dextrous, bold, diligent, and successful.

There are two great engines for raising the *Thames* water, one at the bridge, and the other near *Broken-wharf*.

However, the *New River*, which is brought by an artificial stream from *Ware*, continues to supply the greater part of the city. Of this river I shall take farther notice in my description of *Hertfordshire* where it takes its rise.

The *Chelsea Water-works*, as they are called, are also of no small use for the new buildings at that end of the town. There is a noble cut (which is a large though not long, river of itself) from the *Thames* to near the *Queen's-house* garden-wall, where are two engines which work by fire alternately for raising the water into large iron pipes, through which it is conveyed to a great reservoir of water in *Hyde-park*, to answer the above purpose.

Shadwell Water-works supply the eastern-parts beyond the *Tower*; and there are lately water-works at *Bow*.

Formerly there were several beautiful conduits in *London*, the water of which was very sweet and good, and brought to them at a vast expence from several distant springs, in large leaden pipes. Some of these were rebuilt since the Fire; but now the city is so well supplied with water, that they are either quite demolished, or entirely out of use. That in *Cheapside*, which stood in the broad part adjoining to *Newgate-street*, *Pater-noster-Row*, and *St. Paul's Church-yard*, was the last pulled down; and a statue proposed to be built in its place, in honour of the great King *William III.* and it must be owned, that it is one of the most commodious places for such a purpose in the whole city. But it being set on foot, and some thought, by party on one side, was rejected from far less laudable motives, by party on the other

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XIV. *Of the Christenings and Burials in London, &c.
Of the importance of the city of London to the whole
kingdom.*

LET us now mention something briefly in relation to the yearly births and burials of this extended city. I shall only take notice, that whereas the general number of the burials in the year 1666, and farther back, were from 17,000 to 19,000 in a year, the yearly bill for the year 1777, amounted as follows :

Christened	—	—	—	—	18,300
Buried	—	—	—	—	23,334

Here is to be observed, that the number of burials exceeding so much the number of births, is, because as it is not the number born, but the number christened, that are set down, which is taken from the parish register; so all the children of dissenters of every sort, *Protestant, Popish, and Jewish*, are omitted, also all the children of foreigners, *French, Dutch, &c.* which are baptized in their own churches, and all the children of those who are so poor, that they cannot get them registered : So that if a due estimate be made, the births may be well supposed very much to exceed the burials.

London returns four members to parliament, *Westminster* two; these six, with two from the county of *Middlesex*, make eight, is all that this exceeding populous county returns, although every single ward in *London* is far superior to most of the boroughs in *England*, and really to many of the greater towns, that are represented by two members, and contributes infinitely more to the public charge : And, indeed, one may ask, What are the greatest part of the boroughs in the county of *Cornwall*, and many in that

of *Devon*, which two counties alone return 70 members, compared to 20 populous villages one might name in the neighbourhood of *London*? Some of which, no doubt, would be considered, were a new repartition of this kind practicable, and many of these petty boroughs be obliged to give them up.

XV. *The benefit to the public of a good understanding between the COURT and CITY.*

HAVING shewn the grandeur and importance of this great metropolis, it remains only to observe, how necessary it is for the good of the whole kingdom, that there should be a right understanding cultivated between the administration and that. For,

There has formerly been a great emulation between the *court-end* of the town and the *city*; and it was seriously proposed in a certain reign, how the *court* should humble the *city*; nor was it an impracticable thing at that time, had the pernicious scheme been carried on. Indeed it was carried further than consisted with the prudence of a good government, or of a wise people; for the *court* envied the *city's* riches, and the citizens were ever jealous of the *court's* designs. The most fatal steps the *court* took at that time to humble the *city*, were, 1. The shutting up the *Exchequer*: And, 2. The bringing a *quo warrantum* against their charter. But these things can but be touched at here. The *city* has outlived all; and both the attempts turned to the discredit of the party who pushed them on. The *city* is, indeed, and at all times must be, so necessary to the *court*, that no prudent administration will ever seek occasion for misunderstandings with it; but will, if not infatuated, do all in its power to encourage and increase the opulence of the *city*, which, upon any emergency, will be able and willing, if not disobliged, to support the *court*.

and furnish means to protect the kingdom, against either foreign or domestic enemies.

Here, at the close of our account of this famous metropolis, it will not be amiss to take notice, that an act passed in the sessions of parliament 1759, 1760, entitled, *An act for widening certain streets, lanes, and passages, within the city of London, and liberties thereof; and for opening certain new streets and ways within the same; and for other purposes therein mentioned.*

This act has been carried into execution with such salutary effect, as to render *London* the most commodious city in *Europe*: Several new streets have been opened, and many passages widened, which contribute greatly to the interest and magnificence of this metropolis. By another act passed in 1766, *For the better cleansing, paving, and enlightening the city of London, and liberties thereof, and for preventing obstructions and annoyances within the same, &c.* the powers given in the former act are enforced, and new powers granted; in pursuance of which, the great streets have been paved with whyn-quarry stone, or rock-stone, or stone of a flat surface; signs and posts, pent-houses, gutters, &c. and all other projections and annoyances have been removed. The names of streets have been affixed in conspicuous places, and the houses numbered. Lamps have been put up at proper distances, and the act also provides a rate upon the householders, and a *Sunday* toll at the several turnpikes in the environs of the city, to carry the purposes thereof into execution, and to continue the streets, &c. in constant repair, with penalties on all offenders. In 1767, an act passed for making provision for fishing, &c. and making *Black-friars* bridge free from toll; to take off the toll at *London* bridge; for embanking the *Thames* from *Paul's Wharf* to *Milford-lane*; for repairing the *Royal Exchange*; for rebuilding the goal of *Newgate*, &c. &c. All which have been begun to be put into execution: And when we consider that

acts have been passed, and nearly executed, for paving the city of *Westminster* and borough of *Southwark*, and such parts of the suburbs of *London* as lie in the county of *Middlesex*, we may pronounce, that no city is better paved, lighted, watched, and cleansed, in the universe: So that from the eastern to the western extremity, from the northern to the southern, a person may walk with as much ease almost as in his own chamber.

L E T T E R III.

Containing a description of part of MIDDLESEX, and of the whole county of HERTFORD.

THE villages round *London* partake of the influence of *London*, as I have taken notice in the counties of *Essex*, *Kent*, and *Surry*.

Hackney and *Bromley* are the first villages which begin the county of *Middlesex*, east; for *Bow*, as reckoned to *Stepney*, is a part of the great mass. This town of *Hackney* is of large extent, containing not less than twelve hamlets, or separate villages, though some of them now join, viz.

<i>Church-street,</i>	<i>Clapton,</i>	<i>Shacklewell,</i>
<i>Homerton,</i>	<i>Mare-street,</i>	<i>Dalston,</i>
<i>Wyck-house,</i>	<i>Mell-street,</i>	<i>King'sland,</i>
<i>Grove-street,</i>	<i>Cambridge-heath,</i>	<i>Newington.</i>

All these, though some of them are very large villages, make up but one parish, and are, within a few years, so increased in buildings, and so well inhabited, that there is no comparison to be made between their present and former state; every separate hamlet being

being increased, and some of them more than treble bigger than formerly they were.

Hackney is so remarkable for the retreat of wealthy citizens, that there are, at this time, above an hundred coaches kept in it.

Newington, Tottenham, Edmonton, and Endfield, stand all in a line north from the city. The increase of buildings is so great in them all, that they seem, to a traveller, to be one continued street; especially *Tottenham* and *Edmonton*; and the new buildings so far exceed the old, especially in their value, and the figure of the inhabitants, that the fashion of the town is quite altered.

At *Tottenham*, we see the remains of a modern brick building, in form of an obelisk, on the spot where one of *Queen Eleanor's* crosses stood. What is hereafter said of *Waltham Cross*, and that near *Northampton*, may be applied to this.

Highgate and *Hampstead* are next on the north side. As the county does not extend far this way, I take no notice of smaller towns; nor is there any thing of note but citizens houses for several miles, except the chace, at *Endfield*, which was indeed a beautiful place, when King *James I.* resided at *Theobalds*, for the pleasure of hunting; and was then very full of deer, and all sorts of game; but it has suffered several depredations since that, and particularly in the times of usurpation, when it was stript both of game and timber, and let out in farms to tenants for the use of the public.

After the Restoration it was laid open again; woods and groves were every-where planted, and the whole chace stored with deer; but it is not, nor perhaps ever will be, what it was.

Hampstead is risen from a little village, almost to a city.

The heath extends about a mile every way, and affords a most beautiful prospect; for we see here

Hanslip Steeple one way, which is within eight miles of *Northampton*, N. W. to *Laindon-hill* in *Essex*, another way east, at least 66 miles from one another. The prospect to *London*, and beyond it to *Banstead-downs*, south; *Shooters-hill*, south-east; *Red-hill*, south-west; and *Windsor-castle*, west, is also uninterrupted. Indeed, due north, we see no farther than to *Barnet*, which is not above six miles from it.

Besides the long room at *Hampstead*, in which the company meet publicly on a *Monday* evening to play at cards, &c. there is an assembly-room 60 feet long, and 30 wide, elegantly decorated. Every one who does not subscribe pays half a crown for admittance. Every gentleman who subscribes a guinea for the season, has a ticket for himself, and for two ladies.

On the north-east side of *Hampstead* is *Caen-Wood*, the noble seat of the Earl of *Mansfield*. Great judgment and expence have been employed in improving and heightening the natural beauties of the place. The house has been greatly improved and enriched, and contains, among other fine apartments, a withdrawing-room, of which the novel design, and elegant decorations, are a credit to the taste of Mr. *Adam*, the architect, and his noble employer.

Adjoining to this, is the delightful villa of Col. *Fitzroy*. Several acres of fine ground, lately open fields, are here taken in and inclosed, laid out in serpentine sweeps, and planted here and there with clumps of trees. At the bottom of these, on the back road to *Kentish Town*, is a neat *Gothic* building, with a small but fine bason of water before it, and commanding a full view of the ponds which extend over the heath, and give a romantic view to the whole prospect, consisting of hill and dale.

From *Hampstead* I made an excursion to *Edgware*, a little market-town, on the road to *St. Alban's*; for it is certain, that this was formerly the main road from *London* to *St. Alban's*, being the famous high road

road called *Watling-street*, which reached from *London* to *Shrewsbury*, and on towards *Wales*.

Near this town, the late Duke of *Chandois* built one of the most magnificent palaces in *England*, with a profusion of expence, and so well furnished within, that it had hardly its equal in *England*. The stucco and gilding were done by the famous *Pargotti*. The great hall was painted by *Paolucci*; the pillars were of marble; the great stair-case was extremely fine; and the steps were all of marble, every step being of one whole piece, about 22 feet in length.

The avenue was spacious and majestic; and as it gave you the view of two fronts, joined, as it were, in one, the distance not admitting you to see the angle, which was in the center; so you were agreeably drawn in, to think the front of the house almost twice as large as it was.

And yet, when you come nearer, you were again surpris'd, by seeing the winding passage opening, as it were, a new front to the eye, of near 120 feet wide, which you had not seen before; so that you were lost awhile in looking near at hand for what you so plainly saw at a great distance.

The gardens were well designed, and had a vast variety in them, and the canals were large and noble.

The chapel was a singularity, both in its building and the beauty of its workmanship; and the late Duke, at one time, maintained there a full choir, and had the worship performed with the best music, after the manner of the chapel royal.

Sorry I am, that I am oblig'd to say, that all these beauties *were*, instead of *are*. But such is the fate of sublunary things, that all this grandeur is already at an end! The furniture and curiosities were brought to public auction, and this superb edifice is quite demolished. The shortest duration that perhaps ever great house had, where the possessor fell not under public censure, or by the malignity of powerful enemies,

mies, making him a sacrifice to the passions of a prince, as hath been the case in less happy governments than the *British*. We shall not enter into the causes of this unhappy catastrophe; but if we did, it would appear, that the great founder was more to be pitied, and even admired, than blamed, having made a noble, though ineffectual stand, to prevent a more general ruin to the *African* company, which he was at the head of, and which swallowed up the fortune of one of the most munificent and princely-spirited noblemen that ever adorned this nation. Mr. *Hallet*, an upholsterer in *London*, bought this spot, and built on it a small but neat and elegant villa.

The fields between *London* and this place are constantly kept in grass, there being scarce any arable land intervening; and it is chiefly from hence that *London* is supplied with hay; so that it is no uncommon thing, to see 100 loads of hay go up to *London* on a market-day, and each of these teams bring back a load of dung for dressing the land, which preserves the ground in good heart.

Two miles from *Edgware*, we go up a smaller ascent by the greater road; when leaving the street-way on the right, we enter a spacious common called *Busby-beath*, where again we have a very agreeable prospect. On the right hand, we have in view the town of *St. Alban's*; and all the spaces between, and farther beyond it, look like a garden. The inclosed corn-fields make one grand parterre; the thick-planted hedge-rows seem like a wilderness or labyrinth; and the villages interspersed look like so many several noble seats of gentleman at a distance. In a word, it is all nature, and yet looks like art. On the left hand we see the west end of *London*, *Westminster-Abbey*, and the parliament-house; but the body of the city is cut off by the hill, at which *Hampstead* intercepted the sight on that side. More to the south

we have *Hampton-court*, and *S. W. Windsor*, and, between both, those beautiful parts of *Middlesex* and *Surry*, on the banks of the *Thames*, which are the most agreeable in the world. But I must travel no farther this way, till I have taken a journey west from *London*, and seen what the country affords that way.

The next towns adjacent to *London*, are *Knights-bridge*, *Brompton*, *Kensington*, *Chelsea*, *Hammersmith*, *Fulham*, *Brentford*, *Isleworth*, *Twickenham*, &c. all of them near, or adjoining to, the river *Thames*; and which, by the beauty of their buildings, make good the north shore of the river, answerable to what I have already described.

But here I ought not to omit mentioning the bridge from *Fulham* to *Putney*, cross the *Thames*; which is a large wooden fabric, and as convenient, by its many angular indentings, for foot-passengers, as for horses and coaches. A neat wooden bridge has likewise been built within these few years from *Chelsea* to *Battersea*, in order, as I am informed, to improve the town of *Battersea*, which has been long sinking into decay, and does not, as yet, seem to have received any material advantages from this scheme. The church of *Battersea*, being in a ruinous condition, was lately taken down, and a new one built on the same spot, in the modern taste; but the spire is in a wretched stile.

Kensington cannot be named without mentioning the King's palace there: It was originally an old house of the Earl of *Nottingham*, of whom King *William* bought it, and then enlarged it as we see; some of the old building still remaining in the center of the house.

The house itself fronts to the garden three ways; the gardens being now made exceedingly fine, and enlarged to such a degree, as to reach quite from the great road in *Kensington* town, to the *Acton* road north,

more than a mile, besides a great track of ground out of *Hyde-park*. The noble piece of water in *Hyde-park*, called *The Serpentine River*, looks finely from these beautiful gardens, and is a great ornament to them. The first laying out of these gardens was the design of the late Queen *Mary*; who, finding the air agreed with the King, resolved to make it agreeable to herself too, and gave the first orders for enlarging them.

Queen *Anne* improved what her sister begun, and delighted very much in the place; and often was pleased to make the green-house, which is very beautiful, her summer supper-house.

And her late Majesty Queen *Caroline* completed the whole, by the additions just now mentioned.

As this palace opens to the west, there are two great wings built, for receiving such as necessarily attend the court, and a large *Port-cocher* at the entrance, with a postern, and a stone gallery, on the south side of the court, which leads to the great stair-case. The gardens and green-house, however, have been deprived of many of their beauties to enrich *Richmond* and *Kew*, as his present Majesty never resides at *Kensington* *.

Kensington has increased in buildings, abounds with handsome houses, and has a pretty square. *Holland-house*, built by *Henry Rich*, Earl of *Holland*, in the reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, was the seat of the late Lord *Holland*, and is a very superb edifice of the old structure. *Campden-house*, once a noble retreat, has lost its splendor, and is become a boarding-school for young ladies.

South of *Kensington* stands *Chelsea*, at which place

* The inhabitants of *Kensington* were afraid, when they found the court was no longer to be held there, that their houses and lodgings would be forsaken. The very contrary, however, has happened, owing to its being so convenient a lodging-place for city invalids; which is further improved by the gardens being now open to the public.

is the noblest building, and one of the best foundations of its kind in the world, for maimed and old soldiers, built by Sir *Christopher Wren*. It is a fine structure, and extremely convenient, though less magnificent and costly than that of *Greenwich* for seamen; but had the former been the model for the latter, the difference in the expence would have provided for twice the number of superannuated sailors; and were the salaries of the officers in both so reduced, as the nature and design of an hospital require, that is to say, were the principal officers such as would be contented to live as gentlemen only, and not as persons of high rank and distinction, emulating, as some have heretofore done, the first quality in the kingdom, Luxury would not have dared to shew its face in walls consecrated to Charity; nor would there have needed so great a part of the structure to be taken up in houses of officers, some of them resembling palaces more than what they are. Plain and neat, methinks, should be the essential characteristics of houses thus devoted; and those who would not have been so satisfied, should not either have sought or accepted of the offices; much less should any of these offices have been made sinecures.

At *Chelsea* also is the physic-garden belonging to the company of *Apothecaries of London*; which long continued in a very flourishing condition, under the skillful management of the late botanist Mr. *Philip Miller*, F. R. S. to whom *English* horticulture owes the highest obligations, for the great improvements he made by his publications in that most useful branch of natural knowledge.

Sir *Robert Walpole*, afterwards Earl of *Orford*, had a fine house at *Chelsea*, adjoining, in a manner, to the royal hospital. It was adorned with noble pictures; but the house, having been sold by the late Earl, is now in other hands.

Near the said hospital were, till within these few years,

years, a neat and beautiful house and gardens, built by the late Earl of *Ranelagh*. But the gardens and out-buildings have been quite destroyed, and the grounds sold out in parcels to builders, and other purchasers.

The mansion is now turned into a place of entertainment, the most polite in this kingdom, and filled with the best company, who drink tea and coffee in the summer-evenings, where there is an excellent band of music to accompany the best singers. A rotunda is erected in the gardens, to feast the eyes of belles and beaux, who crowd thither to become spectators to one another, for the benefit of the proprietor. As to the building itself, it is a fine structure, and one of the largest rooms in the world, being 130 feet diameter: A standing monument of the predominant taste of the present age.

I must not pass over so slightly the noble seat of the late Earl of *Burlington*, at *Chiswick*, which was a plain useful house, with a number of good offices about it: but as a part of the old house was destroyed some years ago by fire, his Lordship erected a beautiful casino near; which, for elegance of taste, surpasses every thing of its kind in *England*, if not in *Europe*. The court in front of the house is of a proportionable size to the building, which is gravelled, and kept always very neat. On each side are yew-hedges, in panels, with *termini*, placed at proper distance; in front of which are planted two rows of cedars of *Libanus*, which at present have a fine effect to the eye, at a small distance from the house; for the dark shade of these solemn ever-green trees occasion a fine contrast with the elegant white building which appears between them. These gardens were among the first that introduced the present taste; but that is all their merit, when compared with many others since made.

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stone steps, on one side of which is the statue of *Inigo Jones*, and on the other that of *Palladio*. The portico is supported by fine fluted pillars, of the *Corinthian* order; and the cornice, freeze, and architrave, are as rich as possible; so that the front of this building strikes every person (though not a nice judge of architecture) with uncommon pleasure.

The other front towards the garden is plainer; but yet is very bold and grand, having a pleasing simplicity, as hath also the side-front, toward the *Serpentine River*, which is different from the other two.

The inside of the house is finished in the highest taste, the cielings being richly gilt and painted; and the rooms are filled with admirable pictures; and though the house is small, yet it would take up more room than can be allowed here, to describe the particular beauties of it.

At *North-End*, near *Hammer-smith*, are the handsome house and finely-disposed gardens of the Earl of *Hilborough*, in *Ireland*, since created Baron of *Harwich*; in *England*. Here is likewise one of the seats of Sir *Gilbert Heathcote*, Baronet. That of the late *British Aristophanes*, *Samuel Foote*, though not grand, is elegant, and has extensive garden grounds, laid out in a pretty taste, and well planted with fruit and other trees; but he did not live to see them arrive to perfection.

I have now traversed the best part of *Middlesex*, a county made rich, pleasant, and populous, by the neighbourhood of *London*. The borders of the county have three market-towns, *Staines*, *Colnbrook*, and *Uxbridge*: the last is a pleasant large town, full of good inns (as the others are,) and famous, in particular, for having abundance of fine seats of gentlemen, and persons of quality, in the neighbourhood. I should never have done, were I to pretend to describe, though ever so slightly, the large towns on both sides the river; as,

Lambeth,

<i>Lambeth,</i>	<i>Roehampton,</i>	<i>Isleworth,</i>
<i>Battersea,</i>	<i>Hammer-smith,</i>	<i>Twickenham,</i>
<i>Wandsworth,</i>	<i>Mertlake,</i>	<i>Paddington,</i>
<i>Fulham,</i>	<i>Brentford,</i>	<i>Acton,</i>
<i>Putney,</i>	<i>Kew,</i>	<i>Ealing,</i>
<i>Barnes,</i>	<i>Richmond,</i>	<i>And others :</i>

All crowded and surrounded with fine houses, or rather palaces, of the nobility and gentry of *England*.

But I should be guilty of a great neglect, if I passed by that equally elegant and noble structure called *Gunnerbury-house*, belonging to her Royal Highness the Princess *Amelia*.

It is situated near *Ealing*, between the two great western roads, and stands on an eminence, the ground falling gradually from it to the *Brentford* road ; so that from the portico in the back-front of the house, you have an exceeding fine prospect of the county of *Surry*, the river *Thames*, and all the meadows on the borders for some miles, as also a good view of *London*. This house was built by Mr. *Webb*, who was son-in-law to the famous *Inigo Jones* ; and, indeed, the architecture shews, that it was not planned by that celebrated architect himself, but designed by some scholar of his ; for although the building is as plain as possible, yet there is a simple boldness in it, which graces all the works of that excellent artist, rarely to be found in those of other architects.

The apartments in the house are extremely convenient, and well contrived. The hall is large, having rows of columns on each side. From thence you ascend, by a noble flight of stairs, to a salon, which is a double cube of 25 feet, and most elegantly furnished.

From this room is the entrance to the portico on the back-front of the house, which is supported by columns, and is a delightful place to sit in, during the afternoon, in the summer-season ; for, as it faces the south-east, the sun shines on it no longer than

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two of the clock ; but, extending its beams over the country, which is open to the view, renders the prospect very delightful. Her Royal Highness has made great improvements in the circumjacent grounds, extended their limits, and adorned them with all the requisites of modern improvement.

There are three more market-towns in *Middlesex*, viz. *Brentford*, the county-town, *Edgware*, and *Endfield*.

And now I enter the county of *Hertford*, a fruitful soil, as it is managed ; for it is certain, it is more indebted, for its fertility, to the sagacity and industry of the husbandman, than to nature. Rich meadows are seldom found here ; for it affords not any large rivers : The arable hath generally too much gravel, or too much clay ; but these last cold and wet lands have been within these forty or fifty years greatly improved, by conveying off the superfluous water by bush-draining.

The county is well watered for the conveniency of the inhabitants, though the *Lea* was the only navigable stream in it, till the year 1757, when an act passed, for making the river *Ivel*, and the branches thereof, navigable, from the river *Ouze* at *Tempsford*, in the county of *Bedford*, to *Sholting Mill*, in the parish of *Hitchin*. This county assumes the honour of giving rise to several rivers, viz. the parish of *Tring* to the *Thames*, which, leaving the county at *Puttenham*, goes by *Aylesbury* to *Thame*, and thence by *Wheatley-bridge* to *Dorchester*, and falls into the *Isis*.

The county may be divided into three pretty equal parts, by two great roads, one part lying between the north road, which goes through *Hertford* to *Nottingham*, &c. and the borders of *Cambridgeshire* north, and those of *Essex* east ; another part lying between that road and the other, which leads through *St. Albani's* to *Coventry* and *Chester* ; and the third lying between

tween the last road, and the borders of *Middlesex*, south, and those of *Bucks* west.

I shall begin with the last at *East-Barnet*, a thoroughfare-town of note, and well supplied with inns: it lies high and pleasant, and was formerly frequented for its medicinal waters, and now for its swine-market. It has in its neighbourhood several handsome houses of the *Londoners*, and which are the more pleasant by being so near the chace. On the right through *Barnet*, is the late Admiral *Byng's* house, now belonging to his nephew *George Byng, Esq*; The neighbourhood of this town are much indebted to this gentleman for the pains he took in regulating the inclosure of *Endfield Chace*. It is to be lamented, that all commons, within twenty or thirty miles of *London*, are not inclosed upon such liberal principles.

Totteridge is near it also, and is a pleasant village. It is situated on a fine eminence, looking to the north, over the *St. Alban's* road into the forest; and on the south, over the *Edgware* road, to *Harrow*, &c. It is very clean, and has several very good houses in it.

Cheaping-Barnet lies a little north, in the *St. Alban's* road; and is remarkable for the decisive battle fought there on *Easter-day*, 1471, between the houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, in which the great Earl of *Warwick*, styled *King-Maker*, was killed, with many of the prime nobility, and 10,000 men. The place supposed to be the field of battle is a green spot near *Kicks-end*, between *St. Alban's* and *Hatfield* roads, a little before they meet. And here, anno 1740, a stone column was erected by the Earl of *Salisbury*, on which is an inscription, with an account of that battle. The manor is in the property of the Duke of *Chandos*. An handsome row of six alms-houses, for so many widows, founded by *James Ravenscroft, Esq*; in 1672, with a little furniture to each, is in the street. *Queen Elizabeth* built a free-school house of brick in
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the same street, where nine children are taught *gratis*, and all other boys at five shillings the quarter.

About two miles N. W. from hence, on the left-hand, lies *Durdans*, formerly the seat of the *Austins*, but since of the Earl of *Albemarle*, who purchased it of Sir *John Austin*, and greatly beautified it, by laying most of the neighbouring fields belonging to the estate into a park, and turning and repairing the roads. The house stands on an eminence, situated in a small valley, surrounded with pretty high hills at a little distance, so that in the summer months it is an agreeable retirement; but the soil all around it being a strong clay, all the rain which falls in winter being detained on the surface, renders the situation very cold and moist. Add to this the want of good water and timber near the house, except the young trees, which have been planted by his Lordship.

Idlestre or *Elestre*, is a village on the *Roman Watling-street*, on the very edge of *Middlesex*; but it is chiefly noted for its situation, near *Brockley-hill*, by *Stanmore*, which affords a fine view cross *Middlesex*, over the *Thames*, into *Surry*. Mr. *Philpot*, digging his canal, and foundations for his buildings, upon the spot of the old city *Sulloniacæ*, found many coins, urns, and other antiquities. They have a proverb here, relating to the antiquities :

*No heart can think, nor tongue can tell,
What lies 'tween Brockley-hill and Pennywel.*

Pennywel is a parcel of closes across the valley beyond *Brockley-hill*, where foundations are discernible, and where, they say, has been a city.

About two miles farther west lies *Watford*, a genteel market-town, 14 miles from *London*, upon the *Colne*, where it hath two streams, which run separately to *Rickmersworth*. Several alms-houses belong to this town,

town, and an handsome free-school, built in 1704, and finished 1709, by *Elizabeth Fuller*, widow; and in the church are several handsome monuments. The town is very long, having but one street; at the entrance of it stands *Townsend-house*, which is large and handsome, and belongs to *Arthur Greenwallers*, Esq. Upon the river is a large silk manufactory, which is three stories high, and has thirty-three sash windows on each side; it employs an hundred persons, and belongs to *Thomas Deacon*, Esq; who lives in the town.

Cassioberry, the seat of the Earl of *Essex*, is elegant. The situation is the best in the county, upon a dry spot, within a park of large extent: the house is built in form of an Π : the middle and the east wing is modern, and in good repair; but the west wing is very old, and by no means corresponding with the other parts of the house. The front faces the south east, and looks directly on the house in *More-park*, and which has a noble aspect from *Cassioberry-house*. In the front of the house is a fine dry lawn of grass, which, immediately after the heaviest winter-rains, may be rode or walked on, as on the driest downs; and a little below the house is a river, which winds through the park, and in the driest seasons constantly runs with a fine stream, affording great plenty of trout, cray-fish, and indeed most other kinds of fresh-water fish. On the north and east-sides of the house are large wood-walks, which were planted by the famous *Le Notre*, in the reign of *Charles II.* The woods have many large beech and oak-trees in them; but the principal walks are planted with lime-trees, and these are most of them too narrow for their length, and too regular for the modern taste. On the other side of the river, the ground rises to a considerable height, which affords an agreeable variety; part of which being covered with stately woods, appearing at a
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proper distance from the front of the house, have a fine effect to the eye. In short, the whole spot (if a little more improved) would be one of the finest places near *London*.

Near *Cassio* is a pleasant seat, belonging to the late Lord *Raymond*, called *Langleybury*, now inhabited by Sir *Henry Gray*, Bart.

Rickmersworth is a market-town, within three or four miles west of *Watford*. It gave birth to Sir *Thomas White*, Merchant-Taylor of *London*, who founded *Gloucester-hall*, and *St. John's* college in *Oxford*. Here are two alms-houses, one for four, the other for five widows.

We visited in this neighbourhood *More-park*, with a fine house in it, of the late Duke of *Monmouth*, standing upon the side of the hill, facing *Cassio*, on the other side of the river. It has been allowed to be one of the best pieces of brick-work in *England*, executed by Sir *Christopher Wren*; Sir *William Temple* commends the garden as one of the best laid out in the kingdom. The Duchess of *Monmouth*, on whom it was settled by marriage, sold it in 1720, to *Benjamin Hoskins Stiles*, Esq; who built a south front of stone with colonnades, and an opening was made through the hill, that once obstructed its view toward *Uxbridge*. A north front was also erected, and the hill towards *Watford* cut through for a vista. In digging this hill, veins of sea-sand, with mussels in it, were found. It was since in the possession of the late Lord *Anson*; but after his death it was purchased by Sir *Lawrence Dundas*, Bart. who acquired an immense fortune as commissary to the army in *Germany*, which procured him the title of a Baronet: all of whom contributed to improve this fine place by a profusion of expence.

Abbots-Langley, 21 miles from *London*, situated about three miles north of *Cassio*, in a good air and soil, is remarkable for the birth of a Pope, *Nicholas Brakespear*, by the title of *Adrian IV*. The

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Emperor *Frederic* held his stirrup while he dismounted, yet he suffered his mother to be maintained by the alms of the church of *Canterbury*.

We proceeded to *Kings-Langley*, so called, because *Henry III.* built himself a house here, of which the ruins still exist; and here was born and buried *Edmund de Langley*, Duke of *York*, fifth son of *Edward III.* his wife *Isabel*, youngest daughter of *Don Pedro*, King of *Castile*, was also buried here, and the tomb is in the church of this place.

We next went to *Hempsted*, a little farther north, and about 22 miles from *London*, a bailiwick corporate town. Eleven pair of mills stand within four miles of the place, which bring a great trade to it.

A little north of *Hempsted* we turned west, and came to *Great Barkhamsted*, about 26 miles from *London*. It is a very ancient town, which for many hundreds of years has been one of the manors of the Crown, which granted to it many very ample privileges. It is now annexed to the Dukedom of *Cornwall*.

Barkamsted has evidently been a *Roman* town by the name of *Durobrivæ*; and probably the castle stands upon a *Roman* foundation. *Roman* coins have been frequently dug up there. It is most pleasantly environed with high and hard ground, full of hedge-rows, pastures, and arable, though situated upon the south-side of a marsh. In the time of the heptarchy, it was the residence of the Kings of *Merica*; and here *Wightred*, King of *Kent* and *Merica*, in the year 697, held a parliament. Here also King *Ina*'s laws were published.

The castle was judiciously set on the north-side of the town, on dry ground, among springs, and made exceedingly strong by the *Saxons*. It was rebuilt by *Moreton*, Earl of *Cornwall*, brother to *William I.* and razed for rebellion in his son's time, and so, with the manor, fell to the crown. *Henry II.* kept his court

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court here, and granted great privileges to the place. The castle was afterwards rebuilt, as it is thought, in the reign of King *John*; for the Dauphin of *France*, in conjunction with the barons, besieged it, and the defendants surrendered not till they had the King's orders for it.

When the castle was demolished, a large house was built out of its ruins, which is beautifully situated. What now remains of it is but the third part, and the back of the great house; for the other two thirds were destroyed by fire, in the reign of *Charles I.* It was in King *James's* time a nursery for that Prince's children; and Prince *Henry* and Prince *Charles* were bred up there. In the time of the grand rebellion, Colonel *Axtel*, a parliament officer, held it. It is now in the possession of the *Roper* family.

The corporation sunk in the war between the King and parliament. In King *Charles II.*'s time an attempt was made to revive the charter; but it was dropt. This body politic is now reduced to a skeleton, like the castle, which is only to be known by its moats and walls.

In this town was the famous interview between *William I.* and the *English* nobility, in his march towards *London*, after his victory over *Harold*. He passed the *Thames* at *Wallingford*, and was going forward to *St. Alban's*, when the stout abbot *Frederic* stopped his march, by trees, &c. till he could get the *English* nobility together; and then he made him swear to keep inviolably the good and ancient laws of the kingdom; yet he took away all their lands, and divided them among his hungry *Normans*.

This town gives name to the deanry. The church is handsome, dedicated to *St. Peter*; it has had many chapels and oratories. On the pillars of the church are the eleven apostles, with each of them a sentence of the creed, and *St. George* killing a dragon

gon on the 12th. These were whitened over by the zeal of the late times, and are not many years ago come to light.

The chapel of *St. John* is used only by the masters, ushers, and scholars of the free-school. *St. Leonard's* hospital was at the south-east end of the high-street, and *St. James's* hospital at the other end. The free grammar-school was built by *Dean Incent*, of *St. Paul's*. It is a handsome brick structure, with an apartment at one end for the master, at the other for the usher and chantry-clerk. It was 20 years in building.

Tring, which is 31 miles from *London*, is a small market-town, standing upon the extremity of *Hertfordshire*, next to *Buckinghamshire*, east of, and near, the *Ikening-street*.

It is a very ancient, and was formerly a Royal Manor; but now possessed by *Mr. Gore*, who has made a park of 300 acres, of which part is on the *Chilterns*. In it is a beautiful wood inclosed, lying close to the *Ikening-street*. *Mr. Gore* has beautified and wainscotted the church in a most elegant manner, and gives 20*l.* per Annum for a charity-school. The church is a handsome pile of building, with a ring of six bells. The chancel, wainscotted by *Sir Richard Anderson*, is decent and capacious, and both are paved with free-stone; the pillars are painted; the pulpit and sounding-board are of fine inlaid-work, and an handsome vestry is under the belfry.

Among other monuments is a magnificent one for *Sir William Gore* and his Lady.

The people of this place must be believed to be highly addicted to superstition, if we form our notions of them from the barbarity great numbers of them exercised, in the month of *April 1751*, through the instigation of a publican, who fancied himself to be bewitched by one *Ruth Osbourne*, and her husband, two poor creatures; whom, after various instances

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stances of the most diabolical rage, under pretence of the exploded trial of ducking, they dragged about the length of two miles, and threw into a muddy stream; through which ill usage the woman died, and for which one *Collins* suffered death.

From *Tring*, I passed eastward, and came to *Gadesden-Little*. This vill has *Cawley-wood* and *Ivingo-hills* on the north-west, *Aldbury Cliffs* on the south-west, and *Dunstable Downs* to the north. Here, a common of fine turf leads, under the Duke of *Bridgewater's* shady park, to a most noble prospect, of three counties, worthy of the pencil of the greatest artist in landscape. The variety of woods, cliffs, arable and pasture lands, are charming.

Cawley-wood, belonging to the Duke of *Bridgewater*, is a small covert, a mile from hence, at the top of a hill, in *Bucks*, one of the greatest landmarks in the south of *England*, which overlooks four counties. It stands as a monument to shew, notwithstanding all the modern improvements, that Nature will not be outdone by Art.

Now I am on this subject, I shall just mention *Penley-lodge*, for a delightful retirement to a man who wants to deceive life, in an habitation which has all the charms nature can give. There is behind a large common of fine turf, bounded by a wood on the west, to which if one ascend a quarter of a mile, he has a view of *Northamptonshire* and *Warwickshire*. From the house, a semicircular prospect of *Bedfordshire*, *Middlesex*, and *Bucks*; a bended one towards *Ivingo* and *Aldbury Cliffs*, with the shady woods of the Dukes of *Leeds* and *Bridgewater* seeming to hang over the rivulet called *Bulborn*.

The manor of *Aldbury* lies north-east of *Tring*, and in the way to *Gadesden*: it belongs to the Duke of *Leeds*, whose father married the heiress of the family of *Hyde*. *Muniborough-hill* lies in the way from *Aldbury* to *Little-Gadesden*, and affords an handsome prospect.

Asbridge stands near *Aldbury*, but in *Bucks*, an ancient mansion-house, and fine park, belonging to the Duke of *Bridgwater**. It was a monastery founded by *Edmund* Earl of *Cornwall*, son to *Richard* King of the *Romans*, for a new order of religious men, by him first brought to *England*, called *Bons Hommes*, or honest men, from their modesty and simplicity; they wore a sky-coloured habit after the manner of the hermits. The paintings in the cloisters are preserved from injury, except by the weather, and the whole so entire, that with the retired situation, and all together, it gives the fullest idea of the ancient state of religion of any in these kingdoms.

Gadesden is famous for the birth of *John de Gadesden*, who flourished in the beginning of the 14th century; the first *Englishman* who was a court physician, and of whose skill *Chaucer* makes honourable mention in his *Doctor of Physic*, prefixed to his *Canterbury Tales*; though *Dr. Freind*, from *John's* own books, will not allow him to deserve it. There are several monuments in the chancels of this church of the *Bridgwater* family; whose finely situated seat and park at *Asbridge*, formerly a royal house of pleasure, and where *Edward I.* held a parliament in the 19th year of his reign, is in this parish, but in the county of *Bucks*. The Duke is lord of this manor, as also that of *Great-Gadesden*.

I crossed over a slip of *Bucks*, which runs into *Hertfordshire*, between *Aldbury* and *Kensworth-Green*, lying a little south of the road which leads from *St. Alban's* to *Dunstable*, and is a situation surprisingly fine, about half a mile in length, a good turf, and level; with *Whipsnake Woods* on the back of it, and rows of high trees on the other side. Nothing but sky is to be seen from it one way; and on the other

*. This place supplies *Barkhamstead*, and all the neighbourhood, with fuel, the inhabitants having no coals, except what they bring in waggon from *London*, at a great expence.

we have only a view of the top of a grove, at *Market-Cell*. It seems to claim a preference of every place in the county for a cell; yet never had one on it: it comes very little short of the famous *Guy's cliff* near *Warwick*. There the shady grove, and rolling stream below it, made a beautiful scene for solitude: here the woods and trees afford shade enough, and the pure circumambient ether, with nothing in view but the tops of trees, would make an hermit think himself in another world.

Here I came into the road, and so turned south-east for *St. Alban's*, through *Flamstead* parish, where is a well-built and delightful seat of the late *Sir Thomas Saunders Sebright*, Bart. on a rising ground in the middle of a park. It is called *Beechwood Manor*, from the great number of fine beech-trees which were formerly growing here, some of which are yet remaining on the sides of the park. The soil of this park is, for the most part, dry, the surface being shallow, on a strong or chalky bottom, which renders the turf very fine and short, and very pleasant for the exercise of either riding or walking. It was formerly a nunnery for a prioress and ten nuns, independent of any other convent, and then called *St. Giles in the Wood*. —A very serious inscription in *Flamstead* church, on a monument of one of the *Saunders* family, may be worth transcribing, as it certainly is a piece of sound doctrine, in which every living man may find an use.

“ He that looks hereon may consider how fleeting all worldly comforts are, and how great a vanity it is to place his affection thereon. Such things there are as worldly comforts, it is true; but they ought to be looked on as *little Streams*; and whoever delights in them, more than in the *FOUNTAIN* from whence they proceed, may soon find them dry and vanished. The truth of which he that wrote this hath sensibly found; and wills others to place

H 2

their

their affections chiefly on that OBJECT OF LOVE, which is unchangeable, and is the center of all true joy and felicity."

Pursuing still the same course along the great road we came next to *St. Alban's*, rich in antiquities, where, after the lapse of so many ages, there still remains very much of unquestionable antiquity to gratify the researches of the curious antiquarian, and where he is not under a necessity of resorting to conjectures, often unsatisfactory to himself, oftener to his readers.

This town rose out of the ruins of *Old Verulam*, originally a *British*, afterwards a *Roman* station. Considerable fragments of the *Roman* walls still remain, although great quantities have been taken away at various times for various purposes; sometimes to assist in erecting other buildings, sometimes merely to repair the roads. Here *Cæsar* obtained a victory over *Cassibelan*, and this was the scene of *Boadicea's* victory and cruelty, when she massacred 70,000 *Romans* and *Britons* who adhered to them.

The *Roman* bricks are of two sorts; the red are of a fine colour and close texture, the others have a red case over a black vitrified substance. It has been conjectured, that the former were probably baked in the sun, the latter burnt in the fire; but I doubt much if the sun ever gives heat enough to answer the purpose. The black part resists a file, and will bear a polish*.

The abbey-church is seen on an eminence, from whichever side you approach the town. This noble and venerable remain of ancient piety and religious magnificence, was happily preserved at the dissolution, being purchased by the inhabitants of the town for 400*l.* It has been used by them as a church ever since, and has twice supplied a place for the courts of law, when the judges adjourned from *Westminster*.

* See Sketch of a Tour into Derbyshire and Yorkshire, &c. published in 1778.

ball, on account of the plague; but it had a narrow escape, a few years ago, from falling a sacrifice to avarice and mean-spiritedness. The repairs which had been made at different times were found expensive, and a scheme was formed to pull it down and build a smaller church.

This abbey, which was one of the mitred ones, and in point of rank and wealth was one of the greatest in England, (and was thought not unworthy the acceptance of Cardinal *Wolsey*, after he had obtained the Archbishopric of *York*) was founded by *Offa*, King of the *Mercians*, in 793, on the spot where the bones of *St. Alban*, who suffered martyrdom in 293, were discovered. The materials of the walls of *Old Verulam* have been employed in building the steeple and a considerable part of the church.

In the most eastern parts stood the shrine of *St. Alban*, which was adorned in the richest manner. The stone-screen, at the communion-table is a very light and elegant piece of work, set up by *John de Whetamstead*, who was chosen Abbot in 1434; he took for his arms three ears of wheat, in allusion to the name of the place from whence he was called, and they are carved in divers places in this screen. The center is modern work, a crucifix which originally stood there, being removed. The brasses of the grave-stones are all either broken or destroyed, except those of one of the abbots in the choir, which are perfect, the stone having been turned upside down to preserve them from the ravages of the parliament army, by which the others suffered so much. About seventy years ago the stairs were discovered, which lead to the vault where the body of *Humphry Duke of Gloucester*, uncle to *Henry VI.* was found in a leaden coffin, preserved intire by a pickle; that of his brother, the Duke of *Exeter*, was found at *St. Edmundsbury*, in *Suffolk*, a few years ago, preserved in

the same manner, but was most shamefully mangled by the workmen and a surgeon there.

The west end of the choir has a noble piece of *Gothic* workmanship, for the ornament of the high altar. In the center of the nave is a remarkable reverberation of sound from the roof; which is painted throughout with devices and the arms of the benefactors, the colours of which, though certainly of some ages standing, are remarkably fresh. The arms of the principal contributors to the repairs in the last century, after the havoc made in the civil wars, are in the choir.

At the east end is a place which has been used as a school, and is part of the church, but the communication with the choir is cut off by a wall. Near the west-end of the church is the old gateway of the abbey now used as a prison.

Between the abbey and *Old Verulam* was a large deep pool, now a meadow, which belonged to the castle of *Kingsbury*, situate at the west-end of the town where the King and his nobility used often to divert themselves with sailing in large vessels, the anchors and other tackle of which have been found here. Upon those occasions they resorted to the abbey, which was attended with so much expence to the monks, that they purchased the pool of King *Edgar* and drained it.

Earl *Spencer* has a house in the town, which was the old *Duchess of Marlborough's*.

This place has been the scene of many notable actions. Here the Earl of *Lancaster*, and others of the nobility, staid expecting an answer to their message to that weak, misguided Prince, *Edward II.* requiring him to banish the *Despensers*, to whose councils the oppressions, under which the kingdom groaned, were attributed. The King returned a haughty answer, but was soon afterwards obliged to comply.

Two

Two bloody battles between the houses of *York* and *Lancaster* were fought here; the first in 1455, when the Duke of *York*, assisted by the Earl of *Warwick*, defeated *Henry* and took him prisoner; the other in 1461, on *Bernard's-beath*, when the Queen, aided by the northern Barons, defeated the Earl and retook the King, but stained the victory by the cruelty she exercised on the prisoners.

The reflections arising from the fate of the many gallant men, who lost their lives in the intestine feuds of those days, are truly melancholy. The most ancient and splendid houses were ruined, the kingdom ravaged, and the people equally oppressed whichever side prevailed. Agriculture was neglected, of course a scarcity ensued, and that produced pestilential diseases, which completed the misery. Nor were these the consequences of that noble struggle for liberty which the Barons had heretofore made, and when the present inconveniencies were compensated by the subsequent advantages: the horrors of this war were occasioned by a weak woman attempting to govern on one side, and ambitious nobles struggling for power on the other. The conduct of most of the leaders shews that they acted from that motive, or from a still worse, revenge.

Near this place was *Sopwell* nunnery *, where they say King *Henry* was married to *Anne* of *Bolen*. In the heart of the adjoining corporation stood one of Queen *Eleanor's* crosses, demolished by the inhabitants.

In the neighbourhood of *St. Alban's* is *Gorhambury*, where is a statue of King *Henry VIII.* with a collection of pictures worthy a traveller's curiosity. It is now the seat of the Lord Viscount *Grimston*. But it will be ever remarkable for being the seat of a pater-

* The prioress of this nunnery was dame *Julian Berners*, who published a scarce book of hunting, hawking, fishing, and heraldry.

nal estate of that ornament of his country, for learning, *Francis Bacon*, created Lord *Verulam*, and Viscount of *St. Alban's*, once Lord Chancellor of *England*, who first revived experimental philosophy. Sir *Thomas Meautys*, who had been the secretary of this wonderful man, and to whom he conveyed his estate, in gratitude, erected an elegant marble monument for him in *St. Michael's* church in this town, sitting thoughtfully in an elbow-chair.

The monument bears this inscription :

Francisc. Bacon, Baro de Verulam, Sti. Albani Vicecomes,
Seu notioribus titulis,
Scientiarum lumen, facundiæ lux,
Sic sedebat.
Qui, postquam omnia naturalis sapientiæ
Et civilis arcana evolvisset
Naturæ decretum explevit,
Composita solvantur,
An. Dom. 1626, Ætat. 66.
Tanti viri mem. Thomas Meautys, superstitis cultor,
Defuncti admirator.

Thus translated :

Francis Bacon, Baron of Verulam, and Viscount of St. Alban's; or by his more known titles, The Light of the Sciences, and the Law of Eloquence; was thus accustomed to sit. Who, after having unravelled all the mysteries of nature and civil wisdom, fulfilled the decree of nature, That things joined should be loosed, in the year of our Lord 1626, and of his age 66.

To the memory of so great a man, this was erected by Thomas Meautys, who revered him while living, and admires him dead.

The

The manor of *Kingsbury* was some time the residence of the *Saxon* monarchs, whence its name. It had a castle, which was kept up till King *Stephen's* time, when it was demolished, and the site given to the abbey.

The Earl of *Spencer* has a seat here, built by the late Duke of *Marlborough*, upon the river *Verlam*, which runs through the garden; and who also built handsome alms-houses at the entrance of the town.

At *Tittenhanger*, near *Colney*, is a very handsome seat of Sir *Henry Pope Blunt*, standing about a quarter of a mile north of the road. It seems to be very large, and the fields and meadows about it make it very pleasant in summer.

Having thus gone over the first part I proposed of this country, which lies south and south-west of *St. Alban's* road, I shall now bend my course north-east towards *Hertford*, and from thence north-west, to take in such part of the middle division as lies between the two capital roads on that side of *Hertford*; reserving that which lies east of it for my return towards *London*.

The next town in my way is *Hatfield*, 19 miles from *London*: it is a market-town; but much more famous is *Hatfield-house*, which lies near it; from whence King *Edward VI.* and Queen *Elizabeth* were both conducted to the throne, having resided here for some time. King *James* made an exchange of this manor in the 4th year of his reign, for that of *Theobalds*, as hereafter mentioned, with Sir *Robert Cecil*, afterwards Earl of *Salisbury*, who built this magnificent house, and made the vineyard in the park, through which the river *Lee* hath its course, adorning that garden. There are two charity-schools in this town.

Sunbridge, which lies a little north-west of *Hatfield*, deserves to be mentioned, as it gave title of baron to the great Duke of *Marlborough*; and be-

longed to his dowager, a descendant of the family of *Jennings*, of this place.

North Mims stands a little east of *Colney*. The Duke of *Leeds* has a fine seat near the church. In the chancel of this church lies the body of the great Lord *Somers*, (whose sister and heir married Sir *Joseph Jekyll*, master of the rolls) without any inscription on his monument, in allusion, as one would suppose, to his motto, *Prodesse quam conspici* *.

We come now to *Hertford*, the county-town, 21 miles from *London*; a corporation governed by ten aldermen, out of whom a mayor is chosen, and a recorder. There are likewise sixteen assistants, a town-clerk, a chamberlain, and some nobleman is generally high steward. It is pleasantly situated in a wholesome air, and a dry vale, having a good weekly market well stored with corn, and all sorts of provisions. It is very ancient, and is built in the form of a Y, with a castle in the middle of the two horns. It contains several streets and lanes, well filled with handsome new-built houses. In *Edward III.*'s time, it had petitioned to be disburdened of the expence of sending two members to parliament, on inability to pay their representatives wages; but 21 *Jac. I.* they petitioned to be restored to their right, and succeeded.

There is a free grammar-school for the children of this town, erected by *Richard Hale*, Esq; in King *James I.*'s reign. The house, being rebuilt a few years ago, is a very good one. Of the five churches *Hertford* once had, there are but two remaining, viz. *All Saints* and *St. Andrew's*.

The river *Lee* was once navigable for ships as high as *Hertford*, to which the *Danes* came by this river,

* It was the fashion, five or six hundred years ago, to raise ponderous monuments without any inscriptions, it being then thought, that it could at no time hereafter be necessary, to tell the name of so illustrious a personage; and to this idle fancy we owe our ignorance of the names of many of the silent inhabitants of sumptuous tombs.

in the reign of King *Alfred*, who having blocked them up in the fortress, which they hastily erected there, deprived them of their ships, either by damming up the stream, so as to force it to flow over all the flat country adjacent, as some say, or by cutting three new channels, as others report. But in whatever way it was done, the river was spoiled, till within somewhat more than a century past, when, with great labour and expence, it was so far repaired, and the navigation of it restored, that, as we see, at this day, with equal conveniency to this city, and the county of *Hertford*, barges now come down from *Ware*, with malt and corn, into the *Thames*, and return again laden with coals.

Near *Hertford* is a seat called *Balls*, of the late Governor *Harrison*, now of the Lady Viscountess-dowager *Townshend*, his only daughter, situated on an hill, which commands a prospect of the country round it; as is likewise, in its neighbourhood, a seat of the *Clarks*, very delightfully situated also, called *Brickendonbury*, left by the late Sir *Thomas Clark* to *Thomas Morgan*, Esq; representative for *Brecknockshire*, who married his niece.

Earl *Cowper* has an handsome seat near *Hertingfordbury*, in the neighbourhood of *Hertford*, built by his father the lord chancellor of that name; who erected in the church-yard, by his mother's desire, a tomb for her, with an inscription to her honour.

The manor of *Gubbins*, lies north of *Hertford*, near *Bell-Bar*, and will be for ever famous on occasion of its being the family-seat of the great Sir *Thomas More*, lord chancellor of *England* in the reign of *Henry VIII.* which despotic monarch took off his head, for refusing to acknowledge his supremacy.

A little nearer north, at *Watton*, is *Watton Woodhall*, the mansion-house of the *Botelers*, finely situated on a rising ground, and watered with small streams, which fall into the *Beane*, on the south of

it. It stands in a park beautifully consisting of hills and vales, and esteemed for as good timber as the island produces. About sixty years since, one tree was sold for 43 *l.* Eighteen horses were had to draw one part of it when slit; and out of it the cut-water to the *Royal Sovereign* was made. There is a good free-school in this village for poor children; with some of whom 5 *l.* is to be given apprentice.

Stevenage is 31 miles from *London*, and lies north-west of *Hertford*. It is a small market-town: the church stands upon an hill, and consists of a nave and two ailes, and the chancel hath a chapel on each side. In the steeple is a ring of six bells. Here is a good free-school.

Walkern is near it, north-east, on the river *Beare*. I mention it on account of poor *Jane Wenman*, who, some years ago, was tried for a witch, the last, we hope, that ever will undergo such a trial in *England*; the old law against witches being repealed. Mr. Justice *Powell* got a reprieve for the poor creature, after the jury had found her guilty, contrary to his directions. She lived several years afterwards on an allowance from the parish *. The deluded wretch had been frightened into a confession, that she was a witch; and thereupon was committed by Sir *Henry Chauncey*, of *Yardlybury*, who would fain have had her retract, and pacify her accusers. This gentleman was one of the deprived judges of *James II.* but it is said he never sat as judge but one day. He wrote *The Antiquities of HERTFORDSHIRE*.

It is reported likewise, that another woman being tried before Judge *Powell*, who, among other things

* "I have heard, (says a learned gentleman at *Cambridge*, a friend to this work) that she afterwards became possessed of a comfortable subsistence; that she did a great deal of good with it to the poor, and became as much the object of their esteem, as she had been of their detestation. The trial is a striking instance of what can be done in the swearing way by willing witnesses. It occasioned a controversy, in which, I think, Dr. *Stebbing* signalized himself on the right side."

that constituted her a witch, had laid to her charge, 'That she could fly; *Ay!* said the judge; *And is this true? Do you say you can fly? Yes, I can,* said she.—*So you may, if you will, then,* replied the judge; *I have no law against it.* And at the trial of *Jane Wenman*, the court being full of fine ladies, the old judge very gallantly told the jury, "They must not look out for witches among the old women, but among the young."

At *Siffvernes*, in *Codicote* parish, in the year 1627, was a most prodigious walnut-tree, covering 76 poles of ground. The weight of the boughs at last cleft the trunk to the ground. Mr. *Penn*, then lord of the manor, had 19 loads of planks out of it; a gunstock-maker at *London* had as much as cost 10 *l.* carriage: there were thirty loads more of roots and branches. This was attested by *Edward Wingate*, before a neighbouring justice of peace, to whom Mr. *Penn* declared he had been offered 50 *l.* for the tree.

Hitchin is a market-town, lying in a bottom, out of any great road, distant from *London* 33 miles, and within three miles of *Bedfordshire*. It is governed by a bailiff and four constables, and was formerly famous for the staple commodities of this kingdom. The church is large, 153 feet long, and 67 broad, dedicated to *St. Mary*. It consists of the nave and two aisles, with two chapels or chancels. The steeple has a ring of six bells, but is low, and disproportionate to the chancel. In the north-aisle window are paintings of *Faith*, *Hope*, and *Charity*, and of the *Four Cardinal Virtues*; and, in the next north window, the *Beatitudes*. The front hath the twelve apostles round it; but they have been sufferers from the booted saints of *Forty-one*. There are many monuments in it. A good free-school, a charity school, and eight alms-houses, have been added to the town.

I could not miss taking notice of *Hexton*, on the north-west edge of the county, next *Bedfordshire*,
where

where was a battle between the *Danes* and *Saxons*, some remains of which are visible between this place and *Luton*, as large burrows, &c. Half a mile to the south of this town, is a fortified piece of ground, called *Ravenborough-castle*. The camp is a sort of oblong, containing about 16 acres, the fortification entire. Nature has so well strengthened it, that 1000 men may defend it against a great army: it is encompassed with a valley, and a very steep hill, inaccessible by an army any-where but at the point of entrance, which is by a gradual ascent of a quarter of a mile.

The *Beryslade*, an house then possessed by *John Cross*, Esq; though low, and in the dirt, is now an agreeable summer-house; which it owes chiefly to *St. Faith's Well*, a fine spring at *Ravenborough*. A moory piece of ground, where the spring rises, is cut into canals, which are stocked with trouts, many of them 22 inches long. These, having been used to take their food from the master's hand, out of a bowl with a long handle to it, come rolling up to the surface. The bottom is white, either from chalk or sand; and so transparent, that every fish may be seen that comes out of its hole. To preserve them from groping, the banks are wharfed, and in some places supported with timber; so that the fish can shelter themselves underneath; and a man must have his head and shoulders in water, who stoops down to them. From hence the water feeds a large canal in the garden, stored with carp and tench; and there might be made basons or canals to any dimensions.

Near *Hexton* is a square *Roman* camp upon a promontory just big enough for the purpose, and under it is a fine spring.

Lilli-hoo is a fine plat of ground upon an hill, where a horse-race is kept. It lies a little south of *Hexton*, just by the *Ikening*.

Near

Near *Pirton* church has been a castle of the *Saxons* or *Normans*, with a keep.

I proceeded next to *Baldock*, situated on the *Ikening-street*, as it leads from *Dunstable* to *Roxton*. It is a large market-town, 37 miles from *London*. It is of chief note for its many maltsters. The church stands in the middle of the town; it is an handsome high-built edifice, with a ring of six good bells. It has three chancels, but the two outward are rather chapels. Among other considerable benefactions to the poor of this place, Mr. *John Winne* gave 11,000*l.* to build six alms-houses, and purchase lands to raise an annuity of 40*s.* a piece to every poor person settled in them. The *Ikening-street*, about *Baldock*, now appears but like a field-way. Between *Baldock* and *Icleford* it goes through an entrenchment, consisting of the remains of a *British* town, now called *Wilbury-hill*. *Icleford* retains the name of the street, which at this place passes a rivulet with a strong ford, wanting reparation.

This street, quite to the *Thames* in *Oxfordshire*, goes at the bottom of a continued ridge of hills, called the *Chiltern*, being chalk, and the natural and civil boundary between the counties of *Hertford* and *Bedford*, very steep northward.

As the *Ikening-street* and the *Foss* traversed the kingdom from south-west to north-east, parallel to each other, and *Watling-street* crossed these quite the contrary way with an equal obliquity, the *Herman-street* passed directly north and south, beginning at *Newhaven*, at the mouth of the river *Ouse* in *Suffex*; and passing on the west side of that river, through *Radmil*, then through *Lewes* by *Isfield*; after which it seems to pass over the river at *Sharnbridge*, and so proceeds to *East-Grinstead*; but is lost in passing through the great woods. Then through *Surry* it goes by *Stane-street*, *Croydon*, *Streatham*; and by its pointing we may conclude was originally designed to pass the

Thames

Thames at the ferry called *Stangate* by *Lambeth*, where it coincides with the *Watling-street*. There the road went, before *London* became considerable; but, since that period, the traces of the roads near that capital have grown very obscure. The original road perhaps passes through unfrequented ways near *Endfield* and *Herman-street*, which seems from thence to have borrowed its name.

On the eastern side of *Endfield-chace* by *Bush-hill*, is a circular *British* camp upon an eminence, declining south west. But the ancient road appears upon a common on this side *Hertford* by *Ball's-park*, and passes the river below *Hertford*; then goes through *Ware-park*, and falls into the present road on this side *Buntingford*, and so to *Royston*, where it crosses the *Ikening-street*, coming from *Tring* through *Dunstable*, going into *Suffolk*. These are the principal places upon the two roads, which we thought fit to mention together.

At *Baldock* I crossed the north road, and got into the third division, next *Cambridgeshire* and *Essex*; and when I have passed through it, I shall return southward, and take a view of such towns lying on the east side of the middle division as I have not been at already.

In the year 1724, between *Caldecot* and *Henxworth*, several *Roman* antiquities were dug up. Workmen, digging gravel for the repair of the great northern road, struck upon some earthen vessels, or large urns, full of ashes, and burnt bones, but rotten; near them an human skeleton, with the head towards the south-east, the feet north-west. Several bodies were found in the same position, not above a foot under the surface of the earth, and with urns, great or small, near them, and pateras of fine red earth, some with the impression of the maker at the bottom; also small bottles of glass, (vulgarly called lacrymatories, but more probably essence or unguent bottles;

which

which were properly enough placed in tombs, to which the surviving relations repaired for some time) ampullas, a brass tribulus, six small glasses, two large beads of a green colour, and other fragments.

I went through the village of *Aswell*, which stands not far from *Caldecot*, on the source of the *Rhee*, by the borders of *Cambridgeshire*, which breaks out of a rock here from many springs, with such force as to form a stream remarkably clear, but so cold, that it grips horses not used to drink it. The water here bubbles out at as many places, and as abundantly, and in just such a bottom under an hill, as doth the *Iss* or *Thames* in *Gloucestershire*. In *Domesday Book*, this village is called a borough, having 14 burgessees, and a market; anciently also it had four fairs. Mr. *Camden* thinks the village *Roman*; and at half a mile distance, south of this source of the *Rhee*, is a spot of ground taken in by a *Vallum*, and generally thought to be one of the *Castra Exploratorum* of the *Romans*; it is called *Arbury Banks*, and consists of about 12 acres; and *Roman* coins have been found here; but still it wants several requisites for a *Roman* camp. The church has an handsome chancel, a nave, and two large ailes, a lofty tower at the west end, with a ring of six bells, and a chapel on the north side of the chancel.

I now come to *Royston*, situated upon the utmost northern border of *Hertfordshire*, insomuch that part of it is in *Cambridgeshire*, 37 miles from *London*. The fields about this town have upon almost every eminence a barrow, and they lie very thick by the *Ikening-street*, east of this town. Here was a monastery founded in honour of *St. Thomas à Becket*, as also an hospital, both swallowed up in the dissolution of *Henry VIII.* but the priory-church was purchased by the inhabitants, and made a parish church of. It consists of a nave, with an aile on each side, and a square tower with a ring of five bells in it.

The

The town became populous, on erecting the present post-road through it, which before ran along the *Herman-street*, through *Barkway* to *Biggleswade*. It is now a good town, and well inhabited, and has a great corn market on *Wednesdays*, and is full of good inns.

Two miles both ways of *Royston* is chalky soil, without trees or water; about *Puckeridge* it is gravelly: in other places adjoining are camps, and *Roman* antiquities. At *Hadstock* is the skin of a *Danish* king nailed upon the church-doors, as reported.

Royston was a *Roman* town before *Roisia* built her religious house here. *Roman* coins have been dug up near the spot. There seems to be the stamp of *Roisia's* cross still remaining at the corner of the inn, just where the two roads meet.

And now I bend my course southward, towards *London*.

The church of *Therfield*, which lies among the hills, a little south of *Royston*, is obliged to *Francis* Lord Bishop of *Ely*, once rector of it, who paved the chancel with free-stone, the area of the altar with marble, wainscoted the walls, made it into the form of a choir, and cieled it with fret-work. It is a rectory of great value.

Quixwood is a village, near which is *Clothale*, a seat of Lord *Salisbury's*. The present Earl lives more at this place, which looks like a large old-fashioned farm-house, than at his fine seat, or at least what might be made so, at *Hatfield*.

Barkway is a market-town. The church stands in the midst of it, with an aisle on each side, and a tower with five bells, and a turret-clock. The creation of the world is painted on one of the windows. In one pane at top is a bodily representation of the Deity, as a man in a loose robe, down to his feet, with the globe before him, and the motto under, *De opere primæ diei*. The next pane has the same, with

hands

hands expanded, standing on the firmament, in the midst of the water; under which, *De opere secundæ diæ*. The third has the same figure, among green trees and herbs; the legend lost, and three other panes, in order, under these. The painting of the fourth is lost. The fifth has the same figure, with birds flying about it. A piece of the sixth remains, where fowls and beasts are brought to *Adam* to be named. Another window, in the north aisle, has *St. George* slaying a dragon, a bishop, &c.

The *Roman* road, called *Herman-street*, passes through the parish of *Amstey*; and all the way upon it we find remains of camps and stations, exactly according to the *Itinerary*. The castle, formerly here, was said to be built by *Eustace* Earl of *Bologne*, at the command of *William I.* and it is not improbable, that there were fortifications before. It consisted of a keep, or round artificial hill, yet remaining, with a large and deep fosse about it; the mount, probably, made from the ditch. The barons, in King *John's* time, made another retrenchment south of it, which would contain a garrison as numerous as the castle would hold.

The church was built in the reign of *Henry III.* as is said, out of the stones of the demolished fortifications made additional to the castle. It is certainly very old, and built with a low tower in the middle, and two aisles. The chancel, perhaps, was rebuilt with the materials of the keep, being of later date. It is large and lofty, and hath stalls, as if for a choir.

Buntingford is the next town; noted for being a great thoroughfare. It is 31 miles from *London*, and owes its being as a town to the present post-road through it to the north. The first mention of it is in the reign of *Edward III.* who gave a market and a fair to it. It is situated in *Layston* parish; but has a chapel of brick. *Dr. Seth Ward*, Bishop of *Salisbury*, who died *January 6, 1688*, built a neat brick-house
near

near the chapel, for four poor men and four poor women, who had lived handsomely, and came to decay through misfortunes; each of which has two rooms below, and two above. *Buntingford* free-school owes much also to the same worthy prelate, who had his education in it. He built, 1683, an hospital at *Salisbury*, for ten poor widows of clergymen; was a benefactor to *Layston*; gave a good sum of money to make *Salisbury* river navigable; 600*l.* to be laid out in land, for putting out three poor children apprentices, two out of *Aspenden*, and one out of *Layston*, alternately. In short, the good bishop seems to have thought, that the revenues he reaped from the church ought to have some other more public designation, than to lift out of obscurity a private family. I was told on the spot, that his son was glad to accept this humble subsistence.

Braughing lies a little on the east of the road, and is thought to have been the *Roman Cæsaromagus*, situated 31 miles from *London*, as by *Antoninus's Itinerary*. It still has some ruins of its ancient eminence, giving name to the deanry, and the hundred. On the west side of the *Herman-street*, now the road to *Cambridge*, we find the ruins of a *Roman* camp. The church is an handsome building, and had a ring of five good bells, which are now increased to eight, by the bounty of the late *William Freeman*, Esq; who delighted much in ringing.

Near the church-yard is an old house, at present inhabited by poor families, which was given with all sorts of furniture for weddings. They brought hither their provisions, and had a large kitchen, with a caldron, large spits and dripping-pan; a large room for merriment; a lodging-room, with a bride-bed, and good linen; some of which furniture was in being a few years ago.

We proceeded through *Puckeridge*, a little hamlet-town, but a great thoroughfare, standing on the

Herman-

Herman-street, and came to *Standon*, a small market-town. The church hath a nave and two ailes; the floor of the chancel is seven steps above that of the church, and the altar three steps above the chancel-floor.

Here we turned short to the east, to visit *Bishop-Stortford*, lying on the borders of *Essex*, 30 miles from *London*. *William I.* gave this town and castle to the Bishop of *London*, whence its *prænomen*; and *King John* seized and demolished it, for the offence of the then bishop, who was one of those who published the Pope's interdict against the nation. The bishop was restored by the same prince, and satisfaction made him for demolishing the castle. The hill or keep of the castle is artificial, made of earth carried thither, with a breast-work at top, of stones and mortar. A bank of earth leads from it through the moory ground, on which it was situated, to the north-east. There is a large wall from the top of the hill yet remaining. The Bishop's prison was in being in Bishop *Bonner's* time; though all the old buildings are since demolished. But the castle-guard is still paid by several places to the bishop, besides other quit-rents.

This town is large, and well built. The road from *London* to *Cambridge*, *Newmarket*, and *St. Edmundsbury*, passes through a part of *Hockerel*, in which is an exceeding good inn. *Bishop-Stortford* is built in the form of a cross, having four streets turned to the cardinal points; and the river *Stort* runs through it.

The church dedicated to *St. Michael* is lofty, and stands on high ground; it hath a fine ring of eight bells. There were anciently three guilds and a chantry founded here. In the church are nine stalls on a side for a choir. On the north side the church, is a gallery for the young gentlemen of the school, upon it Sir *John Hebart's* (first Earl of *Buckinghamshire*)

shire of that family) arms, who was educated there, and a great benefactor to this work.

At the west end is another gallery, built a few years ago, upon which is an organ; and it is observable, that there was an organ in this church so long ago as in the reign of *Henry VII.* A new font stands before it, with a pavement of black and white marble, inclosed with iron rails.

There are a great number of monuments in the church, particularly one in the north aisle, for seven children of *Edward Mapplesden*, who died of the small-pox.

Several benefactions are bestowed on the poor of this town, particularly two alms-houses in *Porters-street*. But the greatest ornament of the town is the school, built about 70 years ago, by contribution of the gentlemen of *Hertfordshire* and *Essex*, at the request of *Dr. Thomas Tooke*, late master, who also procured several sums for completing it, from the young gentlemen educated here. When this gentleman engaged in it, it was at the lowest ebb of reputation; but he raised it to a great degree of fame, and considerably increased the trade of the town, by the beneficial concourse that it brought thither. He revived the annual school-feast, and charged his own estate with a yearly present to the preacher on that occasion. He gave a chalice of 20*l.* value to the church, and was a great benefactor to the school-library; which is a very good one, and was first set on foot by the reverend *Thomas Leigh*, B. D. who was vicar of the church, *anno* 1680.

Every gentleman at leaving the school presents a book to the library.

Hadham Parva stands a little north of *Bishop-Stortford*, and is of chief note for being the burying-place of the *Capels*, earls of *Essex*.

The manor of *Rye*, in the parish of *Stansted-Abbots*, is famous for the plot, called thence *The Rye-house*

Plot, said to be formed for assassinating King *Charles II.* in his return from *Newmarket*; for which several persons suffered, and, among the rest, the son of the place, *Rumball*, a man of a daring and enterprising spirit. The road from *Hodsdon*, by the *Rye-house* to *Chesterford*, which forms a third way to *Cambridge*, is very pleasant.

Hodsdon, separated from *Essex* by the *Stort*, deserves to be mentioned for being the residence of the children of King *Henry VIII.* in whose hands it was then, on account of its good air, and vicinity to *London*; and as the seat of *Robert Chester*, Esq; at *Wiggin*, built within these few years, inclosed with a park. It stands upon a beautiful hill, overlooking the meadows, the river *Stort*, and part of *Essex*, from the back front; from the other, it hath a prospect over great part of *Hertfordshire*, and is seen from *Chesterford* common, on one hand, as *St. Paul's* is from the other. At the entrance of the avenue it hath a large lawn, through which runs a small stream; and there is a handsome plantation of trees, with variety of slopes, adorned with statues.

We pursued our way directly south, and came to *Sawbridgeworth*, or *Sawsworth*. Among several ancient monuments in the church, is an handsome one erected to the memory of general *Lumley*, brother to the late Earl of *Scarborough*, with an inscription, greatly to his honour, as follows:

"Here lieth the Honourable *HENRY LUMLEY*, Esq; only brother to *Thomas* Earl of *Scarborough*; who was in every battle, and at every siege, as colonel, lieutenant-general, or general of the horse, with King *William*, or the Duke of *Marlborough*, in twenty campaigns, in *Ireland*, *Flanders*, and *Germany*; where he was honoured, esteemed, and beloved, by our own army, by our allies, and even by the enemies for his singular politeness and humanity, as well as for all his military virtues and capacity.

capacity. He sat a long time in parliament, always zealous for the honour of the crown, and for the good of his country; and knew no party, but that of truth, justice, and honour. He died governor of the Isle of *Jersey*, the 18th of *October* 1722, in the 63d year of his age."

The manor-house of *Pisbiobury*, in *Sabsworth* parish, deserves to be mentioned on account of its lofty rooms and remarkable strength, though built in Queen *Elizabeth's* time. It is situated on a clean soil, has handsome avenues to it, with the river *Stort* behind, which communicates with the canals in the gardens.

We then crossed the country directly west to *Ware*, situated 21 miles from *London*, on the river *Lee*, in its course from *Milford*. The town stands low, upon a level with the river. It is a place of great trade for all sorts of grain, but chiefly malt, which is conveyed in great quantities to *London*, by the river *Lee*, and the new navigable canal; and the barges bring back coals, &c.

It consists of one principal street a mile long, and other back streets and lanes. At an inn in this town is the famous great bed, which is 12 feet square, and lodged at once twelve butchers and their wives. They lay all round thus: two men, then two women, and so on alternately, by which means each man was near no woman but his wife.

Ware, being 21 miles from *London*, is the second post-town from thence on the northern road. The next is *Royston*, 18 miles farther. Several almshouses, and a free-school, and other charities, belong to this town.

Thomas Byde, Esq; Lord of the manor, has an house pleasantly situated in the park here, to which is an ascent on every side; also a vineyard newly planted. One late improvement, besides many others, is a cut from the *Rib*, which by that means turns that stream

through

through the park on the south-side, which is a fine nursery and protection for trouts.

In the north part of the town was situated the priory, now in the possession of the family of *Hadsley*.

At *Blake's-ware*, the most eastern part of the parish, is a seat of the late *William Plummer*, Esq; with a stream, called the *Ash*, on the east front, which feeds a canal and a garden by the river-side.

About three miles from *Ware* is *Youngsberry*, the seat of *David Barclay*, Esq; it is a plain neat edifice; the situation very beautiful, on the brow of a waving hill, scattered with trees. It commands a fine view of rich inclosures, various from the inequalities of the country: in the vale, which winds at the bottom of the hill, Mr. *Barclay* has cut a large river, which enriches his prospect greatly, and gives the whole a scene of liveliness, which, however pleasing, it could not otherwise possess.

A little south of *Ware* lies *Amwell*, a village famous for giving rise to the *New River*; which, proceeding in a direct course by the church, receives a spring which flows with great abundance. It is 21 miles from *London*; but the course of the river is computed at 36. It was begun by Sir *Hugh Middleton*, who by the assistance of the city of *London*, and by aid of an act of parliament, brought it to perfection.

The yearly profit of the river has, some years ago, been computed at 30,000*l*. (at present, it is said to amount to more than double that sum) and the expence in supporting, and keeping it up, is said to amount to half the profit. It was divided originally into 72 shares, one moiety whereof belonged to private persons, some companies of *London*, and the other to the crown: for King *James I.* for the sake of his Palace at *Theobalds*, was a great promoter of it. The crown's moiety is since come into private hands, who however have no part of

the management ; for the corporation consists of 29 of the proprietors of the first 36 shares *.

The governors of the *New River* company agreed with the proprietors of the lands on the river *Lee*, for a cut of two cubit feet of water from the said river, at a certain rate ; and, after the agreement, they told them they would double the price for a four-foot cut ; which the proprietors agreed to, not considering the great disproportions of the two cuts. And this cut of the river *Lee* supplies the largest share of the *New River* water.

We kept along the great road, through *Hoddeston* (which is a considerable market-town, and noted also as a thoroughfare), till we came to *Broxbourn*, which lies near it on the *New River* ; a small, but pleasant village, situated on a rising ground, having pleasant meadows down to the river *Lee*. On the left-hand of the village is *Broxbournebury*, the seat of the Lord *Monson*. The house is large, and new-cased with brick by Sir *Matthew Lamb*, not long before his death. It is situated in the middle of the park, which has lately been planted and beautified. There are also new offices erected at a little distance from the house, in a quadrangle, on the same plan with the King's *Mews* at *Charing-cross*. They are placed behind a large plantation of trees, so that they do not appear until you are near upon them ; yet are at a convenient distance from the mansion-house.

The manor of *Theobalds* is in this neighbourhood, where formerly was built a magnificent seat by Lord Treasurer *Burleigh*, who gave it to his younger son, Sir *Robert Cecil*, and he exchanged it for that of *Hatfield*, at the desire of *James I.* who made it his sport-

* The shares, forty of which are necessary to make a director, are risen, within the memory of many now living, from five to seventy pounds each ; either the public should insist on their being content with less than this vast gain, or encourage some other adventurers.

ing-seat; and here ended his life. From this place *Charles I.* set out to erect his standard at *Nottingham*. King *Charles II.* made a grant of it to *George Monk* Duke of *Albemarle*, and to his male issue; which failing in his son *Christopher*, King *William* gave it to *William Bentinck* Earl of *Portland*, in whose great grandson, the present Duke, it still continues. In the late civil wars, the palace was plundered and defaced; and from a Royal residence it became a poor village. The great park, which was inclosed within a wall of 10 miles compass by King *James*, is now converted into farms. The place is however populous, and the *New River* runs just by, and sometimes through, the gardens of the inhabitants. In this neighbourhood *Richard Cromwell*, the abdicated protector, passed the latter part of his life, in a very private manner.

Waltham-cross is the next, and, as you enter *Middlesex* by the north road, the last place in *Hertfordshire*, standing just on the edge of *Middlesex*. It is noted for, and takes its name from, the Cross, built by King *Edward I.* in honour of his beloved Queen *Eleanor*, whose corpse, in its way from *Lincolnshire* to *Westminster*, rested here; and a cross was built at every stage where it rested, and *Charing-cross* was the last. That Princess's effigies placed round the pillar, and the arms of her royal consort, as well as her own, viz. *England, Castile, Leon*, and *Poitou*, are still remaining, though much defaced.

L E T T E R IV.

Containing a description of part of BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, OXFORDSHIRE, WILTSHIRE, and GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

I Now proceed to give an account of my next journey through part of *Bucks*, into *Oxfordshire*, and shall touch upon some parts of *Wiltshire*, of which I have not yet taken notice.

On the right-hand, as we ride from *London* to *Uxbridge*, or to *Colnbrook*, we see *Harrow*; the church of which standing on the summit of an hill, and having a very high spire, they tell us, King *Charles II.* ridiculing the warm disputes among some critical scripturalists of those times, concerning the *Visible* church of *Christ* upon earth, used to say, This was it.

From *Uxbridge* we proceeded on the road towards *Oxford*, and came to *Beaconsfield*, a small town on the road to *Oxford*, full of good inns, and situated on a dry hill, famous for the residence of Mr. *Edmund Waller*, eminent for his poetical talents.

Then we went on to *Wycomb*, commonly called *High* or *Chipping Wycomb*, from *Cwmm*, a *British* word for valley. This is a large town, consisting of one great street, branching out into divers small ones. It is full of good houses and inns, being a great thoroughfare from *London* to *Oxford*. It sends two members to parliament, and is governed by a mayor, recorder, 12 aldermen, a town-clerk, &c. The church is a large structure, with a steeple not ill built, and the town has a free grammar-school, and two alms-houses.

Not

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Not far from *Wycomb* lies *Amersham*, or *Agmondesham*, a small market-town, very ancient, situated in the *Chiltern*, a part of the country abounding with chalky hills, covered with woods and groves of beeches; and which sends members to parliament. It consists of two streets, which cross each other at right angles. In the area, where these streets intersect each other, stands the church, which is the best rectory in the county. Here is a guild, or market-house built by Sir *William Drake*, being a brick structure raised on pillars and arches, having at top, a lanthorn, and clock. A little beyond it you go through *Chesham*, a good market-town; and likewise *Wendover*, a mean, dirty, corporate town, which sends two members to parliament. Lord *Trevor* is lord of the manor, and the Earl *Verney* chief owner of the houses. Near this place is *Well-head*, a small spring, which is the first rise of the *Thames*. *Aylesbury*, which is the largest and best town in the county, also sends two members to parliament.— It stands on an hill; but the country round it is low and dirty. It consists of several large streets, and has an handsomely built market-house, which stands in a kind of quadrangle. It has also a town-house, where the assizes and sessions, and other public meetings of the county, are held. Provisions are here cheap and plentiful, which is owing to the rich vale adjoining. It was a strong town in the beginning of the *Saxons* time, and a manor royal in that of *William I.* who parcelled it out under this odd tenure, That the tenants should find *Litter or Straw* for the King's *Bedchambers* three times a year, if he came that way so often, and provide him three eels in winter, and three green geese in summer.

Many of the poor here are employed in making lace for edgings, not much inferior to those in *Flanders*: but it is some pleasure to us to observe, that the *English* are not the only nation in the world,

which admires foreign manufactures above its own; since the *French*, who give fashions to most nations, buy and sell the finest laces at *Paris* under the name of *Dentelles d'Angleterre*, or *English* laces. The *English* ladies are even with them in many instances; and particularly in refusing to buy very rich silks, if they are not called *French*; though many of those bought for *French* are really made by *English* artists in *Spital-fields*.

All round this town is a large track of the richest land in *England*, extended for many miles almost from *Tame*, on the edge of *Oxfordshire*, to *Leighton* in *Bedfordshire*, and is called from this town, *The Vale of Aylsbury*. It is famous for fattening cattle and sheep, and they very frequently sell a ram here for breeding for ten pounds. Here it was, that, conversing with some gentlemen who understood country affairs (for all gentlemen hereabouts are graziers, though all the graziers are not gentlemen) they shewed me one remarkable inclosed field of pasture-ground, which was let for 1400*l.* per *Annum* to a grazer.

Near this place lies *Chilton*, famous for giving birth to that steady patriot the Lord Chief Justice *Crook*, who strenuously opposed the arbitrary measures of levying ship-money without the authority of parliament.

South-west of *Aylsbury*, lies the market-town of *Tame*, situated on the side of a meadow, and almost encompassed with rivulets. It consists of one long broad street. The church is large and fine, in form of a cross; near which are the ruins of a priory.

The river *Tame* falls into the *Thames* at *Dorchester* in *Oxfordshire*.

At the confluence of the *Thame* and *Isis* stands *Dorchester*, a town of note among the ancient *Romans*, and in the year 634, was made a Bishop's See, till *Remigius*, in 1094, removed it to *Lincoln*. It had

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has a very large church, and a fine large stone bridge, of great length and antiquity.

In this vale of *Aylsbury* flourished the great and ancient family of *Hampden*, for many ages, in the enjoyment of very large estates; most of them are now enjoyed by Lord *Trevor*, who has taken the name of *Hampden*.

East of *Aylesbury* lies *Ivingho*, a village situated among woods, in a nook, or kind of peninsula, which runs in between *Bedfordshire* and *Hertfordshire*.

We passed forward north-west through *Winslow*, a small market-town, to *Buckingham*, which, though seated on a knoll, is surrounded by other hills, and watered on two sides by the *Ouse*; which takes a bend round the castle hill. It is not a large town, but is a very extensive parish, with some considerable hamlets in it. It was of note enough in the time of *Edward III.* to have one of the staples for wool fixed here; when that great Prince, with a discernment beyond the genius of the age in which he lived, laid the foundation of that trade, which has since been carried to an amazing extent, by prohibiting the exportation of unmanufactured wool. The making of lace is now carried on here, as in other parts of this county; but the great resort to *Stowe* is what enlivens the place. The church, which has been very spacious, is now in ruins, by the sudden falling of the steeple upon the roof, which it beat entirely in, leaving the side walls standing. Happily no life was lost. It is to be rebuilt on a round hill, where stood the keep of the castle; of which this hill is the only vestige. It will here form an object from *Stow* gardens. *Buckingham* sends two members to parliament.

It would have been inexcusable, when we were here, if we had not made a visit to *Stow*, hard by; a village made deservedly famous by the noble gardens

dens of the late Lord Viscount *Cobham*, which now belong to his nephew Earl *Temple*, who has much added to their beauty. The prodigiously long facade to the garden is a compleat piece of new architecture by Mr. *Wyatt*, who first distinguished himself by planning the *Pantheon* in *Oxford-street*.

The house is large, and extends in one line of front 900 feet; but great part of the house has been pulled down, and is rebuilt upon a very beautiful and magnificent plan. The many beautiful paintings, the works of the most capital artists, which are placed in different parts of the house, are truly worthy the inspection of every curious traveller; but the ornamented grounds are more peculiar than the house itself. They were many years the admiration of all that viewed them, not only for their real beauty, but the scarcity of other improvements of the same kind in the kingdom. I should observe, that they were sketched at first quite in the old stile of broad streight gravel walks and avenues of trees, with regular waters; but many of these circumstances are much changed, and the grounds modernized as much as they would admit. I shall give the few observations I made, in the order I viewed this beautiful scene.

From the temple of *Bacchus* there is a pleasing view down on the water in the vale, the temple of *Venus* on its banks, with some wood behind it; but the effect would be better were it quite backed with the dark shade of a thick wood. Passing a cave, or rather a root-house, dedicated to St. *Austin*, the walks lead to the pavilions at the park gate, from which the water is seen differently winding, in a very natural taste, at the bottom of several pastures; it is here as just an imitation of a real stream as can any where be seen.

From Queen *Caroline's* pillar, the wood and water appear to advantage, and the portico of one of the

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the pavilions, on the south side of the gardens, is caught among the woods in a most agreeable manner.

Moving down to the water, a common bench commands a view of a building that terminates the water, which is here large; but observe a small grass lawn scattered with trees, on the opposite banks, which breaks from the water into the wood; it is extremely picturesque, and the best part of this view.

Advancing to the temple of *Venus*, the landscape is very fine; the water fills the valley, (though rather too regular in the bend) and the opposite hill is well spread with thick wood. The *Rotunda* is beautifully placed on a point of ground, with a projecting wood behind it; and to the left, the temple of *Bacchus* appears quite embosomed in a thick grove.

From the *Shepherd's* cave, the view of the *Rotunda* is extremely picturesque: from hence the path winds by the water; but the terminations of it are ornamented with statues, and the regularity of the cascades are in a very different stile from the *Rotunda*, and at once presents a view of the most cultivated taste.

From the first pavilion, the view of the lake is very pleasing; it gives a bend, which forms a promontory of a beautiful verdure scattered with trees, between the bodies of which you command the water. Gardening seldom offers a more beautiful object, nor can it well be employed without success. The extreme beauty of this part of the view will draw off your attention from the regular lawn that leads up to the house.

From the temple of *Friendship*, the view of that of *Antient Virtue*, in a thick wood, is fine; and when the wood is enough grown to hide the house, it will be yet better.

The *Palladian* bridge is taken from that at *Wil-*

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ten; and the water here winds through natural meadows in a just taste.

From thence, as you mount the hill, the view to the left is extremely fine; the water winds through the valley; one of the pavilions on the banks is very prettily scattered with wood, and above the whole, the distant country terminates the scene. From the bench at the top of the hill, the view is varied; here you view the *Corinthian Arch*, in an excellent situation; a proof, that ornamental buildings may sometimes be nearly distinct from wood, though the connection between them is so seldom broken without damaging the beauty of a view.

From the front of the *Gothic* temple, the views are admirably rich; on one side, the portico of the temple of *Concord* is beautifully seen in the wood; on the other, the ground has a varied slope into the valley, where the water winds in a very pleasing manner; the pavilion is beautifully situated on its bank; in front, a dark wood bounds the scene.

Passing Lord *Cobham's* pillar, from whence is a view through a wood of the temple of *Concord*, you come by winding walks to the *Banqueting-room*, from whence is a fine varied prospect; here the *Corinthian* arch appears to advantage.

From hence you are conducted to the temple of *Concord* and *Victory*, and, in the way, pass a most beautiful, hollow, winding lawn; the brows of all the surrounding slopes are finely spread with wood, thick in some places, and in others scattered, so as to open for the eye to follow the bends of the lawn, which is every where different. The temple is excellently situated on the brow of one of the hills, and is a very fine building; it is an oblong, totally surrounded by a colonade of well-proportioned pillars, and the architecture is light and pleasant. In it is a room 42 by 25, ornamented with a statue of *Liberty*, and several medallions in the walls, some of

of which are extremely well executed, though the performance of a self-taught artist, once a poor boy in Lord *Temple's* stables.

The walk leads next to a sequestered winding vale, finely surrounded with wood; and a small water takes its course through it, broken by woody islands, and a various obscured shore. At the head is a grotto of shells, &c. which look down on the water in a pleasing manner, and must be particularly beautiful when the woods and water are illuminated, which they are when Lord *Temple* sups in it. Here is a statue of *Venus* rising from the bath; a pleasing figure, and the attitudes naturally taken, though not well imagined for exhibiting the person to advantage.

The grove, on which the grotto looks, leads you to that part of the garden, called the *Elysian Fields*, which are beautiful waves of close-shaven grass, breaking among woods, and scattered with single trees; bounded on one side by thick groves, and shelving on the other down to the water, which winds in a very happy manner, and commanding from several spots various landscapes of the distant parts of the garden. From the temple of *Ancient Virtue*, you look down on a very beautiful winding hollow lawn, scattered with single trees in the happiest manner, between the trunks of which the water breaks to the eye in a stile admirably picturesque. Near to this temple, in a thicket, is the well-known satire, the temple of *Modern Virtue* in ruin.

The ground continues extremely various and beautiful, till you come to the Princess *Amelia's* arch, from which you at once break upon a scene truly enchanting, being more like a rich picturesque composition, than the effect of an artful management of ground and buildings. The lawn from the arch falls in various waves to the water, at the bottom of the vale; it is scattered with trees, whose spread-

ing tops unite, and leave the eye an irregular command among their stems of a double wave of the lake. The smooth green of the lawn, obscured in some places by the shade of the trees, in other illuminated by the sun, forms an object as beautiful as can be imagined; nor can any thing be more picturesque than the water appearing through the foreground of the scene, thus canopied with trees. A break in the grove presents a complete picture above these beautiful varieties of wood and water: the *Palladian* bridge is backed by a rising ground scattered with wood, and at the top of that a castle. The objects of the whole scene, though various, and some distant, are most happily united to form a complete view, equally magnificent and pleasant: the arch is a light and well-designed building.

Upon the whole, these gardens have much to please the spectator: the new parts have a very happy variety of ground; much of the wood is full grown and fine; consequently the shade, where wanted, is quite dark and gloomy, to a beautiful degree. The water, though not perfectly cured of its original stiffness, winds at the bottom of fine falling vallies, and its shores are well spread with wood; an advantage so great, that an instance is not to be produced of a lake or river that is beautiful without an intimate connection with wood. The buildings are more numerous than in any grounds I know, and most of them are in good taste.

Going still farther northward from *Buckingham*, we come to the following towns:

Stoney Stratford is remarkable for standing on the *Roman* causeway, called *Watling-street*. The principal manufacture in the town is bone-lace.

Newport-Pagnell is a large, well built, populous town, seated on the river *Ouse*, over which it has two large stone bridges. It carries on a great trade in

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in bone-lace, and the same manufacture employs also the neighbouring villages. Here, and in the neighbourhood, a rich cheese is sold on the spot for eighteen pence a pound, and another sort at six-pence.

Oulney is a pretty good town, where also is carried on a manufacture of bone-lace. It lies on the extremity of the county. We must not quit the county of *Bucks* without mentioning *Latimer*, situated 25 miles from *London*. It is a noble seat, belonging to the *Cavendish* family, and has a fine park filled with deer. A clear stream runs through it, in which is great plenty of trout. The owner had lately the river drawn, when 500 brace of trout were taken, which, on an average, were supposed to weigh a pound each: many tench and carp were brought on shore, but were all again turned into the river, which, at each extremity of the lordship, is guarded by weirs; so that, while they form pleasing cascades, they keep the fish within their bounds.

We then returned to *Buckingham*, and following the great road north-west, came to *Brackley* in *Northamptonshire*, situated on the river *Ouse*, an ancient corporate town, in which are two parish churches. It is governed by a mayor and aldermen, and sends two members to parliament.

We next came to *Banbury* in *Oxfordshire*, on the river *Cherwell*. It is a large market-town, under the government of a mayor and aldermen. It has a considerable trade, especially in cheese, as all the country round it is a rich feeding meadow-ground. This place returns one member to parliament.

On the borders of this county, westward from this town, in *Warwickshire*, was the famous battle of *Edge-hill*, fought between the forces of King *Charles I.* and those of the parliament.

Edge-hill lies at the west-end of the vale of *Red-horse*,

horse, and gives a most extensive prospect. It is steep to the north, and on the top, at *Warmington*, is a strong large entrenchment, said to be *Danish*.

West of *Edge-hill* stands *Shipton*, a little town in *Gloucestershire*, which has a large market.

We rode southward to *Deddington* in *Oxfordshire*, a large town, with a very small market.

We turned a little east, and came to *Bicester*, a straggling indifferent town; but remarkable for having had once a famous city in its neighbourhood, called *Alcester*, long since passed over by the plough, and where many *Roman* coins, stones, and other antiquities are found.

Islip lying directly in our way to *Oxford*, we passed through it. It is remarkable for the birth of *Edward the Confessor*.

From hence I came to *Oxford*, famous for several things, but chiefly for its being the most flourishing and considerable university in the world.

There has been a long contest between the two *English* universities, about the priority of their foundations, which perhaps will never be decided.

It is out of question, that, in the largeness of the place, the beauty of situation, the number of inhabitants, and of scholars, *Oxford* has the advantage. Yet it is just to say of both, that *Oxford* has several things as an University, which *Cambridge* has not; and *Cambridge* has several things in it, which cannot be found in *Oxford*.

I shall present the reader with a list of the colleges and halls in the university of *Oxford*, together with a brief history of them; but must observe, that as it would exceed my limits to give an account of the particular benefactions by which their revenues and buildings are splendidly augmented, I shall only mention such of those benefactions as have been conferred within so few years back, that they are not likely to be found in other writers.

I. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

IS situate near the east gate of the city. It is so ancient, that we are left in the dark as to the time of its foundation. That it was in being before the year 721, is certain; but how much sooner is not evident. King *Alfred* could not be so properly called the founder of this university, as the restorer, after the *Danish* devastations. In the year 1332, this college was recovered into a state of liberty and independency, by a sum of money, which *William* of *Durham* had left for the maintenance of a society of students of *Oxford*, from whom it was some time called *Durham-hall*; and by other benefactions it increased to what it now is. It has a master, 12 fellows, 17 scholars, with many other students, amounting in the whole to near seventy.

Before the very noble benefaction of Dr. *Radcliffe*, it had one large, beautiful quadrangle, or square court; the south-side of which is divided into an handsome hall and chapel. In a niche before the said quadrangle is a statue of the late Queen *Anne*; and in a niche on the inside of the new quadrangle, since built, is that of Dr. *Ratcliffe*; but not extraordinary either of them. The King is visitor.

2. *BALIOI-COLLEGE* stands in the north part of the town, in the suburbs. It was founded by *John Baliol*, father to the King of *Scots* of that name, and *Devorguilla* his wife. The former began it about the year 1268; the latter, after her husband's death, completed it, and gave it a body of statutes; which was afterwards enlarged by *Philip Somerville*, a great benefactor to this college; but that body was afterwards laid aside, and a more advantageous one substituted in its room, *Anno* 1507, by the then Bishops of *Winchester* and *Carlisle*. This college has a master,

ster, 12 fellows, and 18 exhibitioners: the whole number of the society amounts to about fifty.

It has one large, ancient quadrangle, on the north side of which is the chapel, and the library, furnished with a very noble collection of books. Sir *Thomas Wendy* gave his study to it, valued at 1500*l*. The visitor is the Archbishop of *York*. A very handsome addition has lately been made to this college, the expence of which was defrayed by the bounty of Mr. *Salmon*, who by his last will bequeathed considerably to it.

3. MERTON-COLLEGE, situate on the south-side of the city, was founded by *Walter* of *Merton*, Bish^p of *Rocheſter*, Lord High Chancellor of *England*. The society was first planted at *Maldern* in *Surry*, in 1274, and he transferred it to *Oxford*, anno 1277. This college has a warden, 24 fellows, 14 portionists, or postmasters, four scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. The number of members of every sort is near 80.

The chapel is the parish church of *St. John Baptist*, and as such will be described among the other churches of this city. The inner large court or quadrangle of the college is very beautiful; it has a well furnished library and a fine garden. The visitor is the Archbishop of *Canterbury*.

4. EXETER-COLLEGE is situate on the west-side of the schools, in the north part of the town. It was founded Anno 1316, by *Walter Stapleton*, Bishop of *Exeter*, privy-counsellor to *Edward II.* and Lord treasurer of *England*, and named *Stapleton-Inn*; and called *Exeter-College* afterwards, by *Edmund Stafford* Bishop of *Exeter*, who was a benefactor to it. It has a rector, 25 fellows, one bible-clerk, and two exhibitioners. The students of every sort are about fifty.

It is one large quadrangle, now made regular and uniform by the new buildings, to which the most reverend Dr. *Narcissus Marsh*, Archbishop of *Armagh*, formerly a fellow of it, contributed 1400*l*. It has a

very

very noble front, over the gate of which is a splendid tower. The visitor is the Bishop of *Exeter*.

5. **Oriel-College**, situate on the south-side of the town, was at first called *St. Mary's-College*, and *King's-College*, and was founded Anno 1327, by *Adam de Brome*, almoner to King *Edward II.* His son *Edward III.* enlarging the revenue of it with a rich messuage, called *Le Oriole*, it took the name of *Oriel-College*. This same Prince annexed to it for a retiring-place, in case of pestilence, &c. *St. Bartholemew's* hospital near *Oxford*. It has a provost, 18 fellows, and 14 exhibitioners. The students of all sorts amount to almost eighty. It consists of one handsome regular quadrangle. The visitor is the Lord Chancellor.

6. **Queen's College** is situate near the parish-church of *St. Peter's in the East*. It was founded Anno 1340, by *Robert Eglesfield*, chaplain or confessor to *Philippa*, consort of King *Edward III.* in honour of whom he called it *Queen's-College*, recommending it to her royal patronage and protection, and to that of all future Queens of *England*. The society consists of a provost, 16 fellows, two chaplains, eight taberders (so called from *taberdum*, a short gown which they formerly wore) and 40 exhibitioners. To these may be added the members of Mr. *Mitchell's* new foundation, hereafter-mentioned. The number of students of every sort is above one hundred.

Sir *Joseph Williamson* was a special benefactor to this college of late times, as *Edward III.* his Queen, Archbishop *Grindall*, and King *Charles I.* were before, as also was its late provost, Dr. *William Lancaster*, in whose time were begun those noble and extensive buildings, which are so justly admired; one side whereof (in which are the library, the provost's, and other spacious and stately lodgings) is 327 feet long, supported by a piazza, and adorned with statues, &c. The library is long and lofty, very magnificent without,

out, and well furnished within. The new chapel and hall, answer the other side of the college.

On the 24th of *May* 1733, the Right Hon. *Arthur Onslow*, Speaker of the House of Commons, and chancellor to her late Majesty *Queen Caroline*, transmitted to the provost 1000*l.* from her Majesty, as Queen consort, and patroness thereof, towards finishing the new building; and her Majesty's statue is erected there under a kind of temple, supported by pillars; but not to the advantage which the royal munificence, and the good intentions of the college, deserved.

And in the year 1739, Mr. *Mitchel* of *Richmond* left an estate of 700*l.* *per Annum* to this college, the income whereof was to finish the east end of its buildings on the plan laid down for that purpose, and after that to commence a foundation of 8 fellows, at 50*l.* *per Annum* each, to be elected from the whole university; those on the present foundation to be excluded. The fellowships to be vacated after 10 years enjoyment; as they are at *Wadham*, *Worcester*, and *Pembroke* colleges, after 20 years. The visitor of this college is the Archbishop of *York*.

7. NEW-COLLEGE, situate on the north-east part of the town, was at first called, *The College of the Blessed Virgin Mary*: It was founded *Anno* 1379, by *William* of *Wickham*, Bishop of *Winchester*, and Lord High Chancellor, who also founded the college at *Winchester*. It has a warden, 70 fellows, 10 chaplains, three clerks, 16 choristers, and one sexton, together with many gentlemen commoners.

Great additions have been made to the buildings of this college: besides a third story that was raised upon the two original ones of the great court, at the society's expence, *Anno* 1674, they have added two stately and uniform wings, extending to the garden; their chapel is magnificent, solemn, and splendid,

with

with an organ and choir. They have a very lofty tower, with a ring of fine bells; and under that and the west-end of the chapel, a very handsome square cloister, and a little garden within it. Their library is well furnished with books and manuscripts, and their great garden laid out in form. The front of it is a range of iron palisadoes, and a gate of exquisite work; and at the south-end they have a bowling-green. Their hall, which is at the end of the chapel, answers to the magnificence of the rest. The visitor is the Bishop of *Winchester*. The altar piece of the chapel has lately received great addition from a picture of *Augustin Carracci*, representing the adoration of the shepherds, and presented to the society by the late Earl of *Radnor*.

In the bursary is shewn the crozier of the founder; it is nearly seven feet in height, is of silver gilt, embellished with variety of the richest *Gothic* workmanship, and charged with figures of angels, and the tutelar saints of the cathedral church of *Winchester*, executed with an elegance equal to that of a more modern age. It is finely preserved, and, from a length of almost four hundred years, has lost but little of its original splendor and beauty.

8. LINCOLN-COLLEGE, situate in the middle of the city, was founded in the year 1429, by *Richard Fleming*, bishop of *Lincoln*; who dying before it was completed, *Thomas de Rotherham*, Bishop of *Lincoln*, afterwards Lord High Chancellor, and Archbishop of *York*, finished it *anno* 1479. It has a rector, twelve fellows, twelve exhibitioners, and seven scholars, with a bible clerk, besides independent members.

It has two small ancient quadrangles, not very regular. The chapel is beautiful, and built by Archbishop *Williams*, then Bishop of *Lincoln*; the windows are curiously painted.

The Lord *Crew*, Bishop of *Durham*, ordered to take place from *Michaelmas* 1717, the following benefactions

nefactions to this college, viz. 1. Twenty pounds a year to the headship, and 10 *l.* a year to each of the twelve fellowships for ever. 2. Ten pounds *per annum* for ever to the curates of four churches belonging to this college. 3. He made up the bible-clerk's office, and eight scholarships, 10 *l. per annum* each for ever. And, 4. Settled, to commence from *Lady-Day*, 1718, 20 *l. per annum* each on 12 exhibitioners. The visitor is the Bishop of *Lincoln*.

9. ALL-SOULS-COLLEGE. Its front faces the high-street. It was founded by *Henry Chicheley*, archbishop of *Canterbury*, for offering up prayers for all who fell in the wars of *Henry V.* in *France*. It has a warden, forty fellows, two chaplains, three clerks, and six choristers. No independent students admitted.

Before the new buildings, it had two courts, the larger, a regular and stately edifice. The chapel was very august and solemn; but the college now appears with a new face.

Colonel *Christopher Codrington*, governor of the *Leeward Islands*, bequeathed to this college 10,000 *l.* 6000 *l.* of which he ordered to be laid out in building a library, and the other 4000 *l.* in books for it, and bequeathed his own library to it besides. This library is 200 feet long within the walls, 32 feet and an half broad, and 40 high; it has 11 large windows to the south, and a window of 17 feet wide at the east end, and one at the west of the same dimensions. It is a fine *Gothic* structure, so built in conformity to the chapel. Against the entrance, in a niche, is the statue of the benefactor, with a suitable inscription (by *Mr. Addison*) to his honour; which he forbid to be mentioned on his monument; on which is only cut the word *Codrington*.

Dr. George Clarke, in his lifetime, adorned the chapel of this college with a magnificent marble altarpiece, rich furniture for the communion-table of crimson velvet, trimmed with gold-lace and fringe, books, candlesticks, &c.

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Henry Portman, Esq; placed at the east end a cloathed resurrection-piece, painted by Sir *James Thornhill*; and the Hon. *Doddington Greville*, Esq; was at the expence of finely painting the cieling-piece. There are other additional ornaments, which render it worthy the attention of the curious. The visitor is the Archbishop of *Canterbury*.

10. MAGDALEN-COLLEGE, situate without the east gate of the town, was founded 1456, by *William Patten*, alias *Wainfleet*, Bishop of *Winchester*, and Lord High Chancellor. It has a president, forty fellows, a schoolmaster, thirty demies, an usher, four chaplains, eight clerks, sixteen choristers, and an organist. The whole number of students about 120.

The new buildings to this college, which form a stately quadrangle, make it one of the finest in the university.

It had before two quadrangles, the innermost of which is regular, consisting of a library and lodgings, supported by a spacious cloister. The chapel, and the great tower, as also the little one in the west end of the inner quadrangle, and the hall, were very lofty and magnificent. They have an exceeding well-furnished library, to which Col. *Codrington* gave 10,000*l*. and a good collection of books. *John Warner* Bishop of *Rochester*, gave also 1000*l*. towards it. The *Water-walks*, as they are called, of *Magdalen-College*, make the college highly delightful; they are an almost triangular gravel-walk, fenced with hedges and trees on both sides, surrounded on every part with a running stream, and inclosing a large meadow. Their grove is also a fine spacious extent of ground, planted with stately vistas of trees, one part of which is laid out into an handsome bowling-green. The visitor is the Bishop of *Winchester*.

The *Roman Catholics* beginning to re-establish themselves in *England*, in the reign of King *James II.*
made

made a push for this college on the vacancy of a president.

This society, from repeated royal grants confirmed by parliament, and from their own statutes, had an undoubted right of chusing their own presidents. But the King, by virtue of his royal authority and dispensing power, sent a mandatory letter to chuse one *Farmer* their president. The fellows made a bold stand, and would not; but in the most humble manner presented a petition, giving their reasons why they could not, without a breach of the statutes of the college and their oaths; and proceeded to an election according to their statutes, chusing *Dr. Hough*, afterwards made bishop of *Worcester*, by King *William*. King *James* was so positive in this affair, hoping, if he carried his first point, to get the better of all the colleges in *England*, that he went in person to *Oxford*, and, in a passion, called them a turbulent, stubborn college; *Get you gone*, said he, *Know I am your King, and will be obeyed*. They on their knees pleaded their statutes and oaths: And this was the first noble stand the universities of *England* made for law and liberty; which was seconded by the seven bishops going to the *Tower*, rather than read the declaration for liberty of conscience, which was designed in favour of the *Roman Catholics*.

II. BRAZEN-NOSE-COLLEGE is situate in the middle of the town, where stood an hall of the same name, and a monstrous nose. It was founded by *Richard Smyth* Bishop of *Lincoln*, counsellor to Prince *Arthur*, and by Sir *Richard Sutton*, Knt. It was begun in 1509, and finished 1522. It has a principal, twenty fellows, thirty-two scholars, four exhibitioners, and about forty or fifty students besides.

It consists of two very handsome quadrangles; in the lesser of which are the chapel and library, and under them a wide and pleasant cloister, very compactly and elegantly built. The late principal, *Dr.*

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Cowley, erected, at his own expence, a very fine window of painted glass, at the east end of the chapel, executed by the artist of *York*, who has been employed by the society of *New College* for the same purpose. The visitor is the bishop of *Lincoln*.

12. **CORPUS-CHRISTI-COLLEGE** stands on the south side of the town. It was founded *anno* 1516, by *Richard Fox*, Bishop of *Winchester*, Lord Privy-Seal to the Kings *Henry VII.* and *VIII.* *Hugh Oldham* Bishop of *Exeter*, gave 6000 marks towards the building, besides lands towards endowing it. It has a president, twenty fellows, twenty scholars, two clerks, two choristers, and six gentlemen commoners.

The structure of the first court is ancient, but within-side very regular and handsome. The library contains a noble treasure of books. Their gardens, though small, are kept very neat. But the most splendid part of this college is the stately row of lodgings erected a few years ago by their late president *Dr. Thomas Turner*, who moreover gave them his numerous and valuable collection of books. The visitor is the Bishop of *Winchester*.

13. **CHRIST-COLLEGE.** This college takes up a vast extent of ground, and stands on the south side of the city. It was begun to be founded *anno* 1525, by Cardinal *Wolsey*; but on his fall coming into the King's hands, and thence called *King's-College*, his Majesty, that he might not seem to found any part of his fame on another's bottom, called it *Christ-Church*, and made it an episcopal see *anno* 1541. Afterwards, *anno* 1543, he joined it to *Canterbury-College*, now called *Canterbury-Quadrangle*, and *Peckwater-Inn*, now called *Peckwater-Court*. However, the buildings lay very incomplete for almost 100 years after, when *Dr. Bryan Duppa*, and *Dr. Samuel Fell*, deans of this house, and afterwards *Dr. John Fell*, bishop of *Oxford*, son of the latter, at different times, by the

the help of many generous benefactors, brought the buildings to surprising perfection.

This foundation is numerous and magnificent, for a dean, eight canons, eight chaplains, eight singing-men, eight choristers, 101 students, besides many independent members. The whole number about 180. In the stately tower, in the front of the gate, hangs the great bell called *Tom*; which was removed thither out of the steeple of the cathedral, by Bishop *Fell*. It is 7 feet and an inch diameter, and 5 feet 9 inches high; and weighs near 17,000 pounds weight. This bell is tolled every night 101 strokes, agreeable to the number of students in the college, to give warning for shutting up the gates in the colleges and halls in the university.

The late Dr. *Lee*, by his last will, consigned a legacy of upwards of 20,000*l.* for the support of several new and useful institutions in the college.

The buildings of this college are very magnificent. The great quadrangle, which is very large, is surrounded with a wide terrace, and has a fountain, much too small, in the middle. *Peckwater Quadrangle* is a modern and very elegant building; and every other part of this college is handsome and commodious. The cathedral is lofty, but by no means deserves particular attention. The hall is a very large *Gothic* room, adorned with pictures of its benefactors, and many of the nobility and persons of fortune who have received their education in this college. The library, which forms one side of *Peckwater Quadrangle*, is a very noble room of great length, very richly adorned with carving and stucco, and furnished with a very large collection of books, which have received great addition from the benefactions of many noble and eminent persons. On the stair-case, in a *niche*, is a very fine marble statue of Mr. *Locke*, formerly a member of this college. The picture-rooms are beneath the library, and filled up

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in a very elegant, judicious manner. These are enriched with a very fine collection of pictures left this college by the late General *Guise*, among which are some very capital pictures of the first masters. In a proper place behind the hall has been erected, within these few years, an anatomical school, and apartments for the professor, who must be a student of this college. It is a very neat, elegant building, and exceedingly well calculated for the intended purpose. Dr. *Parsons*, the first and present professor upon this establishment, reads lectures there at stated times very much to his own honour, and the benefit of the university. Adjoining the college are those walks called *Christ-Church walks*, very much resorted to by the public. They form a grand and tranquil scene. The chapter have also, at a great expence, improved and ornamented the adjoining meadow with gravel-walks and plantations along the banks of the *Cherwell* and the *Isis*; rendering the whole a truly pleasant and delightful scene. The visitor is the King.

14. TRINITY-COLLEGE stands in the north suburbs of the town, where once stood *Durham-College*, founded, *anno* 1350, by *Thomas Hatfield*, Bishop of *Durham*. At the dissolution of abbeys, it running the common fate, Sir *Thomas Pope*, of *Hertfordshire*, purchased it of those who had a grant of it from King *Edward VI.* and obtained a royal licence to turn it into a college; which accordingly he did *anno* 1554 by this name. It has a president, twelve fellows, and twelve scholars, instituted by the founder. These, with the independent members, amount to near seventy.

It has two quadrangles. In the first are the chapel, the hall, and the library. The chapel was rebuilt *anno* 1693, and the work of it, both within and without, is wonderfully elegant. The altar-piece is of cedar inlaid; the rails and screen of cedar, and all adorned with exquisite carving. The roof is enriched

riched with fretwork, and an admirable piece of painting, representing our Saviour's ascension. The pavement, from the screen to the altar, is of a black and white marble. The gardens on the east side of the college contain about three acres of ground: They are divided into three parts: The first, which we enter from the grand quadrangle, consists of gravel-walks and grass-plats, adorned with ever-greens; and the walls entirely covered with them, as those in other college-gardens generally are. Adjoining to this, on the south, is another garden, with shady walks of *Dutch* elms; and, beyond, a wilderness, adorned with fountains, close arbours, round stone tables, and other embellishments. At the entrance and end of the great walk that goes through them, are very noble iron-gates, which leave a prospect open to the whole east side of the college. The visitor is the Bishop of *Winchester*.

15. ST. JOHN BAPTIST'S-COLLEGE is situated in the north suburbs. It was founded *anno* 1557, by Sir *Thomas White*, Lord Mayor of *London*, in the place where stood, before the dissolution, *St. Bernard's-College*, built by Archbishop *Chicheley*. It has at present a president, fifty fellows, two chaplains, an organist, five singing-men, six choristers, and two sextons. The number of students is about seventy.

It has two spacious and uniform quadrangles. The inner court was built by Archbishop *Laud*, and is very elegant. The east and west sides of it are supported by noble piazzas, in the middle of which are two portals finely fronted with pillars and carving. In one of these fronts stands a curious brazen statue of King *Charles I.* and in the other of his queen. The chapel, which has an organ and choir in it, is very handsome. The library takes up the east and south sides of the new quadrangle, and is well stored with books, manuscripts, and valuable curiosities. The hall is neat, and adorned with good pictures.

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The gardens belonging to this college, which are of a very considerable extent, have lately been modernized at a great expence, and form a delightful retreat, in the groves of it, to the contemplative student.

The hall has lately been fitted up in the modern taste, with great elegance. The screen is of *Portland* stone, in the *Ionic* order; and the wainscot, in the same order, is remarkably beautiful. The roof and floor are proportionable to the rest. The chimney-piece is magnificent, of variegated marble, over which is a picture of *St. John the Baptist*, by *Titian*. It is likewise adorned with several other excellent pieces. At the upper end is a whole-length portrait of the founder; with *Archbishop Laud* on the right, and *Archbishop Juxon* on the left. On the north and south sides are those of *Bishop Mew*, *Bishop Buckridge*, *Sir William Paddy, Knt.* and of other eminent men, who have either illustrated this society by their learning, or enriched it by their beneficence.

On one side of this room is a singular curiosity; a marble urn, containing the heart of *Dr. Rawlinson*, enclosed in a silver vessel, which was placed here according to the direction in his last will.

The benefactors have been very numerous, and no less considerable. *Sir William Paddy, Knt.* founded and endowed the present choir, that originally established by the founder having been dissolved by the unanimous consent of the society, *anno 1557*. *Archbishop Laud* erected the second court, its south side excepted. *Archbishop Juxon* gave 7000*l.* to augment the fellowships; *Dr. Holmes*, formerly president, with his lady, gave 15,000*l.* for improving the salaries of the officers, and other purposes; and *Dr. Rawlinson* above-mentioned granted the reversion of a large estate in fee-farm rents. The college has likewise largely experienced the beneficence of many

others, who have liberally contributed towards the improvement of its building and revenues.

Dr. *Sherard*, formerly consul at *Smyrna*, who died *August* 12, 1728, left his library and curiosities, which are very valuable, to this college, besides another considerable legacy. The visitor is the Bishop of *Winchester*.

16. *JESUS-COLLEGE* is situate in *St. Michael's* parish. It was begun, anno 1571, by *Hugh Price*, professor of common law in this university, prebendary of *Rocheſter*, &c. who designed it particularly for the benefit of his countrymen of *Wales*; but the endowment that gentleman made of it sinking into nothing, *Queen Elizabeth*, anno 1589, gave another charter at the society's request; and having filled herself their foundress in the first, it is frequently attributed to her. It has met with so many generous contributors, that it is in a flourishing state, and has a principal, nineteen fellows, eighteen scholars, with many exhibitioners and independent scholars, amounting in the whole to about ninety.

It has two large handsome quadrangles, the innermost very regular and uniform. The visitor is the Earl of *Pembroke*.

In the bursary is shewn a magnificent piece of plate, the gift of the late Sir *Watkin Williams Wynne*; also the statutes of the college, most exquisitely written on vellum, by the Rev. Mr. *Parry* of *Shipston upon Stour*, formerly fellow.

17. *WADHAM-COLLEGE* stands in the north skirts of the town. Its founders were *Nicholas Wadham*, of *Merefield* in *Somersetshire*, Esq; and *Dorothy* his wife, daughter of Sir *William Petre*, Knt. privy-counsellor to *Queen Elizabeth*. He formed the design, and died; and she, in compliance with his death-bed request, completed it. It was begun anno 1509, and finished 1613. It has a warden, fifteen fellows, fifteen scholars, two chaplains, two clerks,

sixteen

sixteen exhibitors. The number of students of every kind about fifty.

This college has one large, regular, beautiful quadrangle. The chapel stands out behind the quadrangle to the east, regularly answering to the library; and its windows are finely painted. They have a large garden, handsomely laid out. The visitor is the Bishop of *Bath and Wells*.

18. PEMBROKE-COLLEGE is situated on the south side of the town. It was formerly an hall, and called *Broadgate-hall*. It was made a college by the munificence of *Thomas Tesdale*, Esq; and *Richard Wightwicke*, S. T. B. with the licence of King *James I.* anno 1620. The members are at present a master, fourteen fellows, and upwards of thirty scholars and exhibitors. It had its name from the Earl of *Pembroke*, then chancellor.

It has one handsome quadrangle, the front of which is a regular, neat piece of building. A pleasant garden also belongs to it. The visitor is the chancellor of the university.

19. WORCESTER-COLLEGE. This college was lately called *Gloucester-hall*: After the dissolution, Sir *Thomas White*, Lord Mayor of *London*, built it, for the purpose of education, and called it *St. John Baptist-hall*, though it still retained the name of *Gloucester-hall*, till it acquired a collegiate endowment by the munificence of Sir *Thomas Cooksey*, of *Asteley* in *Worcestershire*.

It has now a provost, twenty fellows, seventeen scholars, &c. The whole number about forty.

The buildings lately added, and the fine legacies left it by Dr. *George Clarke*, as by his will, will give this college, which had been in no very good condition for some time, a very advantageous figure in the university; and makes a very stately and splendid appearance, by the munificence of Mrs. *Eaton*, one of the three coheiresses of Dr. *Biram Eaton*, formerly

principal of this college, when *Gloucester-hall*. This lady, who died *October 2, 1740*, left a very great estate, partly to her relations, and partly to acts of munificence; such as the foundation of fellowships in *Worcester-College*, for the support of which, and the erecting a pile of building for them, an estate of *700 l. per annum* is bequeathed. The corpse of this lady was honoured by the attendance of the vice-chancellor, and all the heads of houses in the university. The visitor is the chancellor of the university.

20. *HERTFORD-COLLEGE*. This is of a very late erection as a college; for it was but in *September 1740*, that his Majesty's royal charter passed the broad-seal, to erect *Hart-hall*, as it was before called, into a college; to consist of a principal, as before, four senior and eight junior fellows: So that, at last, the Rev. Dr. *Richard Newton*, the worthy principal, after an opposition of several years, given by some who ought to have assisted his generous view, obtained a point which lay very near his heart; though not till several of his worthy friends (who would have contributed largely to his endowment, had it been effected in their time) were demised, which must necessarily be a great disadvantage to the good design.

This college stands in the parish of *St. Peter's* in the east. It is supposed to have had its name of *Hart-hall* from the first syllable of *Elias Hartford's* surname, who was once owner of it. *Walter Stapleton*, Bishop of *Exeter*, having bought it, converted it, *anno 1314*, into an academical seminary, by the name of *Stapleton-hall*, and endowed it with maintenance for twelve scholars, which he removed afterwards to *Exeter-College*, on building the same; and then this hall resumed its own name. It has a stipend or exhibition belonging to it of more than *16 l. per annum*.

It consists of one quadrangle, not very regular; and the late worthy principal made several additions to it, and

and projected still greater, which would have taken place long ago, but for the reasons above given. The visitor is the chancellor of the university.

These are the twenty colleges of which at present this famous university consists. There are, besides, five halls, which are places unendowed, though not destitute of exhibitions. The students in these subsist at their own charge, are under the government of a principal and vice-principal, and pay the former for their lodgings, &c. The principals of these halls are nominated by the chancellor, except the principal of *Edmund hall*, who is nominated by *Queen's-College*. The visitor of the halls is the chancellor of the university.

I shall give a brief account of each of these halls :
And,

1. **ALBAN-HALL** is situated on the south side of the town, and had its name from *Robert St. Alban*, once proprietor of the place. It became academical about the year 1230. There was lately no more than one member, besides the principal, in this house.

The front makes but a tolerable appearance ; and the inside not even that.

2. **EDMUND-HALL** is situate in the parish of *St. Peter's* in the east ; and has its name probably from one *Edmund*, a citizen of *Oxford*, proprietor of the place. In the year 1557 it was purchased by *Queen's-College*, and converted to its present use, containing, besides the principal, about twenty students.

It makes one quadrangle ; on the east side of which stands a very neat chapel and library, built some years since by the Reverend Mr. *Stephen Penton*, its principal.

3. **ST. MARY-HALL**, situate in the parish of *St. Mary*, has its name either from that church, which, with this hall, came to belong to *Oriel-College*, by a grant of King *Edward II.* anno 1325, or from *Oriel-College*, heretofore called *St. Mary's-Hall*.

It consists of one quadrangle, not very regular.

Dr. *John Hudson*, principal, built here handsome lodgings at his own expence. There are about thirty students in it.

4. **NEW-INN-HALL** is situate in the north-west part of the town. It was called *Trilleck-Hall*, from two brothers, proprietors of it, of that name; one Bishop of *Hereford*, and the other Bishop of *Rocheſter*. Afterwards the founder of *New-College* bought it, and gave it to that college, *anno* 1392, and from that time it was called *New-Inn-Hall*.

The building is ancient and irregular.

5. **ST. MARY-MAGDALEN-HALL**, situate near *Magdalen-College*, was built by *William Wainfleet*, Bishop of *Wincheſter*, *anno* 1480, for a grammar-school; but it having room for academical students, near forty of which there are at present, and some additions having been made to it, it became an academical ſociety. It enjoys fifteen exhibitioners, five of 8*l.* *per annum*, and ten of 10*l.*

The front is the moſt conſiderable part of it; but it has a pretty good library. The famous Earl of *Clarendon* had his education here.

Besides the colleges and halls above named, there are ſome public buildings which make a glorious appearance. The firſt and greateſt of all is the *Theatre*, a building not to be equalled by any thing of its kind and bigneſs in the world. Sir *Chriſtopher Wren* was the director of the work. Archbishop *Sheldon* paid for it, and gave it to the univerſity: There is much decoration in the front of it; and the inſide roof finely painted and decorated, is never enough to be admired.

Westward of the theatre ſtands an elegant modern edifice, called the **ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM**. Its front towards the ſtreet is about 60 feet in length. Its grand portico is remarkably well finiſhed in the *Corinthian* order, with a variety of characteriſtical embellishments. It was erected under the conduct of Sir

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Christopher Wren, at the expence of the university, anno 1683, and about the same time replenished with an ample collection of valuable curiosities, both natural and artificial, by *Elias Ashmole*, Esq; This useful and entertaining repository has since been much enriched by many benefactors, particularly by Dr. *Woodward*, who supplied it with an inestimable collection of fossils.

Some of its apartments are filled with the curious manuscripts of Mr. *Ashmole*, above-mentioned, and Sir *William Dugdale*; as likewise with the whole library of *Anthony Wood*, the celebrated antiquarian. In the room on the first-floor, lectures are read in experimental philosophy. Underneath is an elaboratory, for courses of chemistry and anatomy.

The BODLEIAN library is an ornament of itself worthy of this famous university. I have not room for its history at large, but shall briefly observe, that the first public library in *Oxford* was erected in *Durham-College*, now *Trinity*, by *Richard* Bishop of *Durham*, Lord treasurer to *Edward III.* It was afterwards joined to another, founded by *Cobham* Bishop of *Winchester*, and both enlarged by the bounty of *Humphry* Duke of *Gloucester*, founder of the divinity-schools. But these books being embezzled, and the places, where they were deposited quite ruinous, Sir *Thomas Bodley*, a wealthy and learned Knight, at a vast expence, collected books and manuscripts from all parts of the world, and placed them in the old library room built by the good Duke *Humphry*.

This great work was brought to effect the 8th of Nov. 1602, and has continued increasing, by the benefactions of great and learned men, to this day; such as Archbishop *Laud*, the Earl of *Pembroke*, Sir *Thomas Roe*, *Oliver Cromwell*, *Selden*, Sir *W. Digby*, General *Fairfax*, Dr. *Marshall*, Dr. *Barlow*, Dr. *Rowlinson*, &c.

Over the porch, upon an handsome pedestal of
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black marble, stands the brass effigies of the Earl of *Pembroke*, their noble and generous Chancellor, given by the late Earl, moulded by *Le Sœur*; also a very large collection of *Greek, Roman, British, Saxon, English*, and other coins, presented by Sir *Thomas Roe*, and other hands*. And that indefatigable and learned collector of books and manuscripts, Dr. *Tanner*, Bishop of *St. Asaph*, who died *December 12, 1735*, bequeathed the most curious part of his fine collection to this noble library.

In the year 1740, by the death of Mrs. *Crew*, relict of *George Crew*, Esq; an estate of 80*l. per Ann.* is fallen to the head librarian's post, which before was very inconsiderable, though it acquired a constant residence. This was a legacy of the late Right Reverend and Right Honourable *Nathanael Lord Crew*, Bishop of *Durham*, who was a great benefactor to *Lincoln-College*.

The SCHOOLS form a magnificent quadrangle. The principal front on the outside is about 175 feet in length; in the center of which is a noble tower, whose highest apartments are appointed for astronomical observations, and other philosophical experiments. The inside of this part must please every lover of ancient grandeur. Three sides of the upper story of the quadrangle are one entire room, called the picture gallery. This is chiefly furnished with valuable portraits of founders and benefactors, and of other eminent men; as also with cabinets of medals, and cases of books. It was wainscotted by the munificence of Dr. *Butler*, the late president of *Magdalen-College*, and the late Duke of *Beaufort*. This room is, in reality, a part or continuation of

* Archbishop *Laud*, *Wake*, *Browne Willis*, Esq; and the late Mr. *Gordon*, of *Batol*, a most worthy gentleman, who, always intending to deposit his collection here, took care to buy such coins and books on the subject, as were wanting in this noble collection, by which means, and his own great judgment, he was enabled to make a vast and valuable addition.

the *Bodelian* library. Under it are the schools of the several sciences; in one of which are placed the *Arundelian* marbles; and in another, that inestimable collection of statues, &c. lately presented to the University by the Countess of *Pomfret*.

The new, or *RADCLIVIAN* library, is situated in the midst of an ample and superb square, formed by *St. Mary's-Church*, the schools, *Brazen-Nose*, and *All-Souls-Colleges*. The building stands on a circular arcade, which supports a spacious dome. From hence we pass by a well executed flight of spiral steps into the library itself: this room, which is a pattern of elegance and majesty, rises into a capacious dome, ornamented with fine compartments of stucco. The pavement is of two colours, and made of a peculiar species of stone brought from the *Hartz-Forest* in *Germany*. It is of a pale reddish colour, and said never to shew any signs of moisture in the dampest weather. The room is enclosed by a circular series of arches, beautified with festoons, and supported by pilasters of the *Ionic* order. Behind these arches are formed two circular galleries, above and below, where the books are disposed in elegant cabinets. The compartments of the cieling, in the upper gallery, are finely stuccoed. Over the door, at the entrance, is a statue of the founder, *Dr. Radcliffe*, by *Rysbrac*, which is most advantageously viewed from the point opposite to it in the last-mentioned gallery. In a word, the finishing and decorations of this edifice are all in the highest taste.

The first stone was laid *May 17, Anno 1737*, and the library was opened *April 13, 1745*, with great solemnity. The librarian, according to the founder's appointment, is nominated by the great officers of state.

The late *Charles Viner*, Esq; by his will, dated *Dec. 29, 1755*, left about 12,000*l.* to the chancellor, masters, and scholars of the University of *Oxford*, to establish a professorship, and endow such fellow-

ships and scholarships of the common law in that University, as should be adequate to the produce of his estate. This is the first institution of the kind in the kingdom; and in consequence of the powers vested in the University by this will, the very ingenious and learned Dr. *Blackstone* * was appointed professor, with a salary of 20*l.* a year; who published a Discourse on the Study of the Law, being an introductory lecture to the institution, read in the public schools *Ox.* 25, 1758, with the highest reputation to himself, and honour to the institutor's scheme.

The University had before, to wit, in *July* 1758, in convocation, determined to found a professorship and two scholarships, in conformity to the will, the fellowship being reserved till the reversionary part of the bequest falls in. At the same time the convocation made a statute for inrolling the late *Charles Viner*, Esq; among the public benefactors of the University.

Pursuant to the directions of Mr. *Viner*'s will, the professor is to read one solemn public lecture on the Laws of *England*, in the *English* language, in every academical term; and yearly one common course of lectures, consisting of 60, at least, on the Laws of *England*, in *English*, during the university term time, with such intervals, as that more than four lectures shall not fall within a week. These lectures are to be read *gratis* to the scholars of Mr. *Viner*'s foundation; but such gratuity may be demanded of other auditors as shall from time to time be settled by the degree of convocation. The gratuity now settled is four guineas for the first course, two for the second, but nothing for any further attendance.

In this introductory lecture Dr. *Blackstone* has shewn the utility of a general acquaintance with the municipal laws of the land, to persons in various stations of life; and some reflections on the propriety

* Now Sir *William Blackstone*, Knt. one of the judges of the court of *King's Bench*.

of pursuing this study in our Universities. See the discourse itself. He has since published most valuable Commentaries on the Laws of *England*, in four volumes, quarto.

Other curious things in *Oxford* are, the *Clarendon Printing-house*, the *Physic Garden*, &c. all worthy of a particular description, had I room to give it.

The University is governed by a chancellor, chosen by scrutiny or collection of votes; he is generally one of the first noblemen of the kingdom.

By an high steward, chosen by the chancellor.

By a vice-chancellor, who must be one of the heads of a college, recommended to the University by the chancellor.

By two proctors, chosen annually, out of the colleges in rotation.

The other officers are the public orator, and the keeper of the archives, beadles, virgers, &c. In fine, the number of officers, fellows, and scholars, maintained by the revenues of this University, is about 1000, and the number of such scholars as live at their own charge, is usually about 2000; the whole amounting to 3000 persons, besides a great number of inferior officers and servants, belonging to the several colleges and halls, which have each their statutes and rules for government, under their respective heads, with fellows and tutors.

But though I have said so much of the *University*, I must not quite forget the *City*. Let me then observe, that before *Baliol-College* they shew the stone in the street, which marks the place of the martyrdom of Archbishop *Cranmer* and Bishop *Ridley*, then upon the banks of the ditch, without the city walls, which went along where the theatre now stands.

Beyond the river, stood *Osney-abbey*, founded 1129. Upon the bridge is a tower, called *Frier Bacon's Study*, from that famous and learned monk.

Over another bridge, on the *Isis*, we went to see
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Rewly-abbey, where some ruins still remain, turned to a common brewhouse.

Of the castle remains a square high tower, by the river-side, and a lofty mount, or keep, walled at top, with a stair-case going downward.

The *White-friers* was a Royal Palace; and near a green called *Beaumonts*, they shewed us the bottom of a tower upon the spot where the valiant *Richard I.* was born.

The principal bridges are, 1. *Magdalen-bridge*, over the *Cherwell*; being 600 feet in length and consisting of 20 arches, by which we enter the town from *London*. 2. *High-bridge*, in the western suburb, over the *Ifis*; consisting of three arches, and leading into *Gloucestershire*, &c. 3. *Folly-bridge*, as it is commonly called, in the southern-suburb, on the same river; over which, through a gate and tower known by the name of *Frier Bacon's Study*, is the *Abingdon* road, which leads to divers parts of *Perkshire*, &c. This consists of three arches, and is, like the rest, built with stone, which luckily abounds in this neighbourhood.

A survey has lately been taken by an able engineer, in consequence of a proposed plan for making a navigable canal from the *Severn* at *Stourport*, to have its course by *Finbury*, across the *Tame* to the *Maidenhead* inn, from thence to *Leominster* in *Herefordshire*, *Presteign* in *Radnorshire*, and to *Erecknock*, to join the river *Ufk*.

The city of *Oxford*, with its suburbs and liberties, consists of 14 parish-churches;

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| 1. <i>St. Mary's.</i> | } | 8. <i>St. Mary Magdalen.</i> |
| 2. <i>All Saints.</i> | | 9. <i>St. Peter in the East.</i> |
| 3. <i>St. Martin's, or Carfax.</i> | | 10. <i>Holiwell.</i> |
| 4. <i>St. Aldate's, or St. Tole's</i> | | 11. <i>St. Giles's.</i> |
| 5. <i>St. Ebb's.</i> | | 12. <i>St. Thomas's.</i> |
| 6. <i>St. Peter's in the Bailey.</i> | | 13. <i>St. John's.</i> |
| 7. <i>St. Michael's.</i> | | 14. <i>St. Clement's.</i> |

Only

Only four churches belonging to these parishes are worthy observation, viz. *All Saints*, *St. Peter's*, *St. John's*, and *St. Mary's*.

The church of *All Saints*, situated in the *High-street*, is an elegant modern structure; much in the style of many of the new churches in *London*. It is beautified, both within and without, with *Corinthian* pilasters, and finished with an *Attic* story and ballustrade. The cieling, altar, pulpit, &c. are finely executed. The steeple is remarkable, in the modern manner. Its architect was *Dr. Aldrich*, formerly dean of *Christ-Church*.

The church of *St. Peter* in the east, standing near the *High-street*, was built by *St. Grymbald*, near 800 years ago; and is reported to be the first church of stone that appeared in this part of *England*. It was formerly the university church; and even at present, with a view of ascertaining their original claim, the University attend sermons in it every *Sunday* in the afternoon during *Lent*. The tower and east-end are curious pieces of antiquity.

The church of *St. John* (which is also the chapel belonging to *Merton-College*) is an august *Gothic* edifice, with a tower, in which are six bells. Its choir, or inner chapel, is the longest of any in the University, that of *New College* excepted: it had once an organ, yet without any regular institution for choir-service, before the present stalls and wainscot were put up. There is something elegant in the painted glass of the east window, which is of a modern hand. The antichapel is proportionably spacious, and was originally much larger; for if we examine the outside of the church, towards the west, we may perceive the arches filled up, which once stood within, and made part of the nave. Near the altar are the monuments of *Sir Thomas Bodley*, and *Sir Henry Saville*. On the right hand of the choir-door, is that of the late warden, *Dr. Wyntle*, and his

his sister, which is prettily executed; and not far from the north door of the anti-chapel is a bust and inscription to the memory of *Anthony Wood*. This church, as we are informed by *Hearne*, was built in the year 1424, but it does not appear by what benefactor.

The church of *St. Mary*, in which the public sermons of the university are preached on *Sundays* and holidays, consist of a nave and two aisles, with a spacious choir or chancel, which is separated from the nave by an organ with its gallery. The tower, with its spire, is a noble and beautiful fabric, 180 feet in height, and richly and beautifully ornamented with *Gothic* workmanship, and appears to great advantage at a considerable distance. Indeed, the *Oxonians* have reasons for insisting so often in the poetry on the hundred spires of the place. It contains six remarkably large bells, by which the proper notice is given for scholastic exercises, convocations, and congregations.

Without the town, on all hands, are to be seen the fortifications erected in the late civil wars.

As to the city, though the colleges make up two-thirds of it, and are still elbowing for more room, yet it is large and regular; the streets are spacious, clean, and strait; the place pleasant and healthful*; the inhabitants genteel and courteous; and, taking it all together, and including the grandeur and endowment of the colleges, their chapels, halls, libraries, quadrangles, piazzas, gardens, walks, groves, &c. it must be considered as the finest university in the world.

On the left-hand, on the other side of the river, the last remains of *Godstow* nunnery are situated among the sweet meadows. Here fair *Rosamond* had

* An act has been obtained for pulling down gateways, new paving the streets, &c. &c.

remarkably fine tomb; but before the dissolution scarce could her ashes rest, *whose beauty was thought guilty, as one says, even after death* *.

The advancement of learning was by no means the grand object of these famous foundations, so much as praying for the founders souls; hence sometimes, in the statute of election, the preference is given to one in priests orders.

Oxford was made an episcopal see in 1541, when *Robert King*, the last abbot of *Osney*, was elected Bishop. Here are two charity-schools, one erected by the University for 54 boys, the other by the city, for 50 boys and girls. The city and university send each two members to parliament. The city is governed by a mayor, high steward, recorder, four aldermen, two bailiffs, a town-clerk, and 24 common-council men. The magistrates are subject to the vice-chancellor of the university in all affairs of moment, even relating to the city; and the mayor for the time being, takes an oath before the vice-chancellor to preserve the privileges of the University. *Oxford* gives the title of Earl to the family of *Harley*.

This place was for many years advantaged by the neighbourhood of the royal court, while several Kings of *England*, being taken with the fine situation

* A very noble infirmary has also been erected by the trustees under *Dr. Radcliffe's* will, which, perhaps, may in time render this University as eminent in its physical students, as in every other branch of science.

From the same source, I mean *Dr. Radcliffe's* estates, a very fine observatory has been erected, and a most superb apparatus furnished, for astronomical enquiries and instructions. To which are added stipends and apartments for a professor and scholars.

The new bridge, which is not quite finished, is designed by *Mr. Gwynn*, and will be, when completed, a very handsome stone edifice.

Indeed, from the new pavement and the consequent improvements; the new buildings; the spirit of improving which prevails among the different colleges; the removal of the market-place; and other obstructions, *Oxford* has a most magnificent appearance, and may, very justly, boast of being the first University in the world.

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of *Woodstock*, made their palace there the place of their summer retreat.

Dr. *Plott* allows it to have been a royal house ever since King *Alfred*; and a manuscript in the *Cotton* library confirms it; and that *Henry I.* was not the founder of it, but only rebuilt it. As for *Henry II.* who kept his fair *Rosamond* in it, he made only some additions to it, for the entertainment and security of his beautiful mistress. Notwithstanding which, the Queen, having got access to her in the King's absence, as tradition informs us, dispatched her by poison.

When I was first at *Woodstock* some years ago, I saw part of the old palace, and the famous labyrinth of fair *Rosamond*; but these are now destroyed. Her bathing-place, or *well*, as it is called, is left; a quadrangular receptacle of pure water, immediately flowing from a little spring under the hill, overshadowed with trees; near which are some ruins of walls and arches. King *Ethelred* called a parliament here. It has been a royal seat, as I have said, from most ancient times. *Henry I.* inclosed the park. Across this valley was a remarkably fine echo, that would repeat a whole hexameter, but impaired by the removal of these buildings. A stately bridge of one vast arch leads along the grand approach to the present castle; and a cascade of water falls from a lake down some stone steps into the canal that runs under it.

The new palace of *Blenheim* is a vast and magnificent pile of building: a gift of the public to the high merit of *John Duke of Malborough* *.

* "*Blenheim* is a pile raised at the expence of the public, and meant to be great and magnificent; yet every thing that the occasion called for might, and would have been effected, had not the execution fell to so miserable an architect as *Vanburgh*, whose buildings are monuments of the vilest taste." *Young's Six Weeks Tour*.

It may not be improper to add, that this house may be seen every day (*Sunday* excepted) at three o'clock, but at no other hour.

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The roof is adorned with a stone ballustrade, and good number of statues.

The very lofty hall is painted by Sir *James Thornhill*, and the cieling by *La Guerre*. The rooms are finely enriched with marble chimney pieces and furniture, but more by the incomparable paintings and hangings; which latter represent the principal glories of the Duke's life. Among the pictures, are many of *Rubens's* best and largest pieces; that celebrated one of himself, his wife and child, among others: *Van Dyke's* King *Charles I.* upon a dun horse, of great value; and the famous loves of the gods, by *Titian*, present from the King of *Sardinia*. The gallery is worthy admiration, lined with marble pilasters, and whole pillars of one piece, supporting a most costly and curious entablature, excellent for matter and workmanship, the window-frames of the same, and a basement of black marble quite round. Before it, is stretched out a most agreeable prospect of the fine-woods beyond the great valleys. What is of the most elegant taste in the whole house, is of the late *Dutchess's* own designing. The chapel is equal to the rest. The garden is a very large plat of ground taken out of the park*, and may still be said to be a part of it, well contrived, by sinking the outer wall into a foss, to give a view quite round, and take off the odious appearance of confinement and limitation to the eye. It is within well adorned with walks, greens, espaliers, and vistas to divers remarkable objects, that offer themselves in the circumjacent country. Over the pediment of this front of the house is a curious marble busto of *Lewis XIV.* bigger than the life, taken from the gate of the citadel of *Tournoy*. The orangery is a pretty room. Near the gate of the palace is the house where our famous *Chaucer* was born.

* "The park is very extensive, and well planned, and the water exceedingly beautiful; but the Rialto, as it is called, over it, a most miserably heavy, ungraceful piece of architecture." *Young*.

At

At the entrance into the castle from the town, her Grace erected a noble triumphal arch, to the memory of the Duke; and set up a vast obelisk in the principal avenue of the park, whereon is inscribed an account of the Duke's actions and character, written by Dr. Hare, who had been his Grace's chaplain, and was afterwards Bishop of *Chichester*. The inscription begins thus :

The castle of *Blenheim* was founded by Queen ANNE,
In the fourth year of her reign,
In the year of the Christian æra 1705.

A monument designed to perpetuate the memory of the
Signal victory

Obtained over the *French* and *Bavarians*,
Near the village of *Blenheim*,
On the banks of the *Danube*,

By JOHN Duke of MARLBOROUGH :

The hero not only of this nation, but of this age;
Whose glory was equal in the council and in the field;
Who by wisdom, justice, candour, and address,
Reconciled various, and even opposite interests;
Acquired an influence

Which no rank, no authority, can give,
Nor any force, but that of superior virtue;
Became the fixed, important center,
Which united, in one common cause,

The principal states of *Europe*;
Who by military knowledge, and irresistible valour,
In a long series of uninterrupted triumphs,
Broke the power of *France*,

When raised the highest, when exerted the most;
Rescued the empire from desolation;
Asserted and confirmed the liberties of *Europe*,

£c. £c. £c.

The present Duke, among other improvements
truly magnificent, has enlarged and completed the
vast

vast lake of water before the house, by which there is great addition of grandeur to the scene. The superfluity of this water passes off by a very steep waterfall, and forming itself into a river meanders thro' the beautiful gardens at the back of the house.

At *Woodstock* they make the fine steel chains for watches, and the best of gloves. It is a corporation, governed by a mayor, a recorder, four aldermen, and sixteen common-council men; and sends two members to parliament. It has three alms-houses, and a school, founded, 27 *Elizabeth*, by Mr. *Richard Cromwell*, citizen and skinner of *London*.

From *Woodstock* I went north-west to *Chipping-Norton*, which must have been once a town of great trade, by the number of merchants, as they are called, on the brasses over their monuments; and, besides, the name *Chipping* denotes as much. There are marks of a castle by the church, and *Roman* coins are frequently found here. The church is a good building, and after a curious model. It is a corporation, governed by two bailiffs, and other officers, who are impowered to hold a court, and to judge and determine actions under 4*l.* value. On *Chapel-heath*, near the town, there are annual horse-races.

Hence we rode to see *Rollrich* stones, a little *Stonehenge*, being a circle of great stones standing upright, some of them from five to seven feet high, and probably the *vestigia* of an old *British* temple, as that was.

At *Tidmarton* parish is a large camp of an orbicular form, on the summit of an hill, which is doubly intrenched, and able to contain a great army.

When I was at *Banbury*, I should have mentioned *Bloxham*, which lies south of it; where is a fine church, the steeple agreeable and handsome.

Being now on the side of *Warwickshire*, as is said before, I still went south; and, passing by the *Four Shire Stones*, erected in 1741, we saw where the counties

counties of *Oxford*, *Warwick*, *Worcester*, and *Gloucester*, join four together; one side of this stone fronting each county.

Entering *Gloucestershire* here, westward, we came, after a mile's ride, to *Moretonhinmarsh*, a small town, which had formerly a market, but now discontinued: It lies on the great road to *Worcester*. And the famous *Roman* fosseway, which, coming out of *Warwickshire*, enters this county at *Lemington*, which lies north-east of this town, strikes through it, and also through *Stow* and *North-Lech*, down to *Cirencester*, southward.

Hence we come to the famous *Cotswold-downs*, so eminent for the best of sheep, and finest wool in *England*: Fame tells us, that some of these sheep were sent by King *Richard I.* into *Spain*; and that from hence the breed of their sheep was raised, which now produce so fine a wool, that we are obliged to fetch it from thence at a great price, for making our finest broad-cloths.

Upon these downs we had a clear view of the aforementioned famous fosse. We observed also how several cross roads, as ancient as the *Fosse*, joined it, or branched out of it; some of which the people have by ancient usage, though corruptly, called also *Fosses*. For example,

The *Ackman-street*, which is an ancient *Saxon* road, leading from *Buckinghamshire* through *Oxfordshire* to the *Fosse*, and so to *Bath*; this joins the *Fosse* between *Burford* and *Cirencester*. Also *Grimesdyke*, from *Oxfordshire*, *Wattle-bank*, or *Offa's-ditch*, from the same, and the *Would-way*, called also the *Fosse*, crossing from *Gloucester* to *Cirencester*.

The seat of the Duke of *Newcastle*, the late Lord *Litchfield's*, at *Ditchley*, is a very noble one, situate about the distance of three miles from *Blenheim*, on the north-west. It is built of hewn stone, and has a beautiful southern front, with two correspondent wings,

ings, commanding a most agreeable and extensive prospect, in which the magnificent palace of *Blenheim* has the principal effect.

This seat is a noble repository of valuable and masterly portraits, executed by the most eminent artists in that species of painting; *Rubens*, *Vandyke*, *Sir Peter Lely*, and our ingenious countryman and rival of *Vandyke*, *Johnson*. As a piece of architecture, it is inferior to none for the justness of its proportions, and the convenient disposition of its apartments. With regard to furniture and decorations, it is finished with taste rather than with splendor, and adorned with that elegance which results from simplicity.

At *Newnham* is the most elegant seat of Lord *Harcourt*, where the late worthy Lord lost his life in 1777, by endeavouring to get his spaniel out of a well.

Heatborp, the seat of Lord *Shrewsbury*, whose front is of the most beautiful architecture, and whose apartments are very superb, is also in this neighbourhood.

The *Churn*, the *Coln*, the *Lech*, and the *Windrush*, all rise in the *Cotswould* hills; their currents are remarkably clear and swift; and they produce great plenty of excellent trout, and other fish. The *Churn* falls into the *Thames*, or *Ifis* at *Cricklade*, where it becomes navigable for small boats to *Lechlade*; and here being increased by the *Coln* and *Lech*, it receives barges of a larger size, which go from hence to *London*. The *Windrush* having passed through *Burford* and *Witney*, empties itself into the *Thames*, near *New-Bridge*.

Stow on the Would, which is the next town we came to, is but indifferent to look at; but is, or rather has been, remarkable for its two annual fairs, famous for hops, cheese, and sheep, of which, it is said, that above 20,000 are generally sold at one fair.

The

The parish is very large, being 12 miles in compass and consists of meadow, arable, and pasture. Here is a good large church standing on a hill, with an high tower on the south side of it, which is seen a great distance. Here are also an hospital, alms-house, and free-school, all well endowed; besides other charities *.

North Lech is also a market-town, governed by a bailiff, and two constables; and is named from the river *Lech*, which runs through it. Here is a church large and spacious, having ailes on each side, and handsome windows, with a large tower. Here is a grammar-school, free for all the boys of the town, endowed with 80 *l.* a year, by *Hugh Westwold*, Esq. And it is said, that the founder, falling afterwards into misfortunes, solicited for the master's place of his own school, but could not obtain it.

Here we quitted the *Roman Fosse*, and went eastward to *Burford* in *Oxfordshire*. King *Henry II.* gave this town a charter, *Guildam, & omnes consuetudines quas habent liberi burgenses de Oxenford*; but they are almost all now lost. However, it retains some marks of a corporation still, being governed by two bailiffs and other inferior officers. It is famous for saddles, and, lying near the downs, draws great profit from the horse-races, which are frequent here. At this place was convened a synod in 685, against the errors of the *British* churches in the observance of *Easter*.

At *Battle-edge*, near this town, *Cuthred*, King of the *West Saxons*, beat *Ethelbald*, King of the *Mercians*, in a pitched battle, and threw off his yoke. The inhabitants celebrate yearly, on *Midsummer-eve*, a kind of festival, which, they say, commenced in honour of this battle. Here the learned *Dr. Heylin* (descended originally from an ancient family in

* So many inclosures have of late years taken place upon these hills, that the fairs for the sale of sheep must of course be considerably diminished.

(*Wales*) was born; and at this place is the seat of *Lenthall*, the speaker of the long parliament, which is now in the family, and contains a valuable collection of old paintings by *Rubens*, *Vandyke*, and other eminent masters, well worth the traveller's attention.

Being so near *Witney*, we could not forbear taking a ride to see a town so noted for the manufactures of blanketting and rugs, which thrive here in a most extraordinary manner. Here are at work 150 looms continually, for which above 3000 people, from eight years old and upwards, are daily employed in carding, spinning, &c. and consume above 80 packs of wool weekly. The blankets are usually ten or twelve quarters wide, and very white, which some attribute to the absterfive nitrous waters of the river *Windrush*, wherewith they are scoured; but others believe it is owing to a peculiar way of loose spinning they use here; and others again are of opinion, that it proceeds from both. In consequence of which, this town has engrossed the whole trade in that commodity. They likewise make here the *Duffield* stuffs, a yard and three quarters wide, which are carried to *New-England* and *Virginia*, and much worn even here in winter. Here are likewise a great many fellmongers, who, having dressed and stained their sheepskins, make them into jackets and breeches, and sell them at *Bampton*; from whence they are dispersed all over the neighbouring counties. Here is a good free-school, and a fine library belonging to it.

Witney is an ancient town, and has a large well-built church, with a spire; it is a valuable rectory, with a good parsonage-house, and was of good repute before the *Norman* invasion; but it is a long, straggling, uncouth place, though full of inhabitants. It was one of the manors which *Alwinus* Bishop of *Winchester* gave to the church of *St. Swithin* there, and Queen *Emma*'s happily passing over the *Fire* Or-

At *Astol*, a village on the road between *Burford* and *Witney*, is a barrow which stands very high, and is supposed to be the sepulchre of some person of great note.

Southward lies *Bampton*, on the borders of the county next *Berkshire*. It is an ancient market-town, likewise in repute before the *Norman* invasion. It is noted for the greatest market for fellmonger-wares in *England*, and the remains of a strong and ancient castle.

Turning here west, we entered *Gloucestershire* again, and came to *Lechlade*, which is a small market-town, situated on the banks of the river *Thames*, and in the great road to *Gloucester*. It is probable, that it was anciently a *Roman* town upon the *Thames*; for a very plain *Roman* road runs from hence to *Cirencester*.

The river *Lech*, which rises near *North Lech* in this county, discharges itself into the *Thames* a little below *St. John's Bridge* in this parish, and thereby gives name to the town.

Here is a well-built church, with a handsome spire; also two or three considerable wharfs, with large warehouses; many barges being employed in carrying cheese, and other commodities, from this place to *London*.

In a meadow near *St. John's Bridge*, and adjoining to the turnpike-road on the east side, there formerly stood a priory dedicated to *St. John the Baptist*, the foundations of which have been often discovered by digging; and in another meadow close to *St. John's Bridge*, a very noted fair is still held on the 9th of *September*, which, before the alteration of the Style, was kept on the 29th of *August*, the day on which, according to the calendar, *St. John the Baptist* was beheaded.

From *Lechlade* we proceeded west to *Fairford*, a small market-town, through which runs the river

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Coln, which has two bridges over it. A great many medals and urns have been often dug up here, and there are several barrows in the adjoining fields, the monuments of the slain interred here.

A great many charities are still subsisting in this town; but what it is most noted for, is its church, and the admirable painting in its windows; of which take the following description and history.

John Tame, a merchant of *London*, purchased this manor of *King Henry VII.* (to whom it descended from the *Beauchamps*, Earls of *Warwick*;) and having taken a prize-ship bound for *Rome*, wherein he found a great quantity of painted glass, he brought both the glass and the workmen into *England*. *Mr. Tame* built this church, which is in length 125 feet, and 35 in breadth; and has a nave and two aisles, a good vestry, and a noble tower, arising from the midst of it, adorned with pinacles; and the windows of the church, 28 in number, he caused to be glazed with this invaluable prize, which remains entire to this day, the admiration of all that see it.

Mrs. Farmer (a daughter of the Lord *Lemster*) gave *col.* to be laid out in mending and wiring the windows: This has preserved them from accidents; and, in the grand rebellion, the impropiator *Mr. Oldworth*, and others (to their great praise be it remembered!) took down the glass, and secured it in some secret place, thereby preserving it from fanatic rage. The painting was the design of the famous *Albert Durer*; and the colouring in the drapery, and some of the figures, are so well performed, that *Vandyke* affirmed, the pencil could not exceed it.

The subjects are all scriptural, and interlarded with a great variety of ridiculous representations, which had, I suppose, their weight and value in the superstitious times when these windows were painted.

On the *Churn*, one of the rivers I have just named, stands *Cirencester*, 7 miles west, (or *Cicester*, for brevity,)

vity,) the ancient *Corinium* of the *Romans*, and said to be rebuilt by *Cissa*, a viceroy under one of the *Saxon* kings, a great and populous city, then inclosed with walls, and a ditch of vast compass, which may be traced quite round. The foundation of the wall is also very visible in many places. A good part of this circuit is now pasture, corn-fields, and gardens, besides the site of the present town. Antiquities are frequently dug up here; old foundations, houses, and streets, and many Mosaic pavements, with rings, intaglias, and coins innumerable, especially in one great garden, called *Lewis's Grounds*, which might have been the *Prætorium*, or general's quarters; for *Llys*, in *British*, signifies a palace. Large quantities of carved stones are carried off yearly in carts, to mend the highways, besides what have been used in building. A fine Mosaic pavement was dug up here *anno* 1723, with many coins. One Mr. *Richard Bishop*, some years ago, dug up in his garden a vault 16 feet long, and 12 broad, and supported with square pillars of *Roman* brick, three feet and an half high, on which was a strong floor of terrace. Near it are now several other vaults, on which cherry-trees grow. These might have been the foundation of a temple; for in the same place they found several stones of the shafts of pillars six feet long, and large stone bases, with cornices very handsomely moulded, and carved with modillions, and other ornaments, which are now converted into swine-troughs, and pavements before the door. Capitals of these pillars were likewise found. A Mosaic pavement near it, and entire, is now the floor of his privy.

Half a mile west of the town, on the north side of the *Foss's* road, at a place called *Quern*, other antiquities are to be seen worth an antiquary's attention.

Little of the abbey is now left, besides two old and indifferent gate-houses. The church is a very handsome building; the 28 windows are full of painted
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glafs, representing fcripture history, and the history of feveral fathers, martyrs, &c. with the feveral religious orders of the church of *Rome*, from the pope to the mendicant friar; and it has a fine lofty tower, with 12 excellent bells. Eaſt of the town, about a quarter of a mile, is *Starbury-mountain*, a barrow, where *Roman* coins have been dug up. Weſtward is *Grifmund's Mount*, of which feveral curious fables are told.

Cirenceſter is ſtill a very good town, populous and rich, full of clothiers, and driving a great trade in wool, which is brought from the inland counties of *Leiceſter*, *Northampton*, and *Lincoln*, where the largeſt ſheep in *England* feed, and where are but few manufactures. The vaſt quantities ſold here are almoſt incredible. The wool is bought up here, chiefly by the clothiers of *Wiltſhire* and *Glouceſtershire*, for the ſupply of that great clothing-trade, which I have mentioned already: They talk of 5000 packs a year.

The town is governed by two high conſtables. It has two weekly markets; one on *Monday*, for corn, cattle, and proviſions; and on *Friday*, for wool chiefly. It has alſo five fairs, three for all ſorts of commodities, and two for cloth only; and ſends two members to parliament. Here are a freeſchool, and divers hospitals and alms-houſes, in this pariſh.

Lord *Bathurſt* has here a good ſeat, and a noble park, enriched with the moſt beautiful walks, lawns, plantations, and ornamental buildings; forming altogether one of the moſt delightful ſpots in *England*. The great elegance and true taſte diſplayed in laying out this very extenſive park, does the greateſt honour to the diſtinguiſhed genius and abilities of its late noble poſſeſſor.

The *Churn* runs from hence down ſouthward to *Cricklade* in *Wiltſhire*, which is ſaid to have been anciently a very noted place, containing 1300 houſes.

222 GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Some monkish writers have falsely supposed, that *Leachlade*, as well as *Cricklade*, were both universities for teaching *Latin* and *Greek*, by deriving those names from *Latin Lade* and *Greek Lade*. The *Churn* and the *Rey* fall, here, into the *Thames*, which begins to be navigable from this place to *London*. Here is a good free-school; and the town sends two members to parliament.

West of *Cirencester*, upon the side of an hill, stands *Stroud*, a little market-town, distinguished by an extensive clothing trade carried on in its neighbourhood. By this town runs the river *Stroudwater*, which has the remarkable property of striking the scarlet dye with a fuller and deeper tint than any water yet discovered. The church is 90 feet long, and 40 broad. At the west end rises an high spire steeple, and a tower in the middle. So that it is built in the cathedral or conventual style.

North of it stands *Paynswick*, a market-town, situate in the wholesomest air in *Gloucestershire*, where the clothing trade is also carried on.

Lower to the west of *Cirencester* stands *Minching-Hampton*; so called, because it belonged to the *Minching* nuns at *Caen* in *Normandy*. Here is a good rectory worth 400 *l.* a year; the church large, and in the form of a cross, and a tower with battlements rising in the middle. In the north aisle are a great many inscriptions of benefactions; and in the south aisle is the statue of a man lying cross-legged, with a sword and shield by him, and his wife lying at his feet.

Then we came to *Tetbury*, one of the clothing towns I mentioned; a considerable market-town, situated on a rising ground, in an healthy air. It is well built, has a large market-house well frequented for yarn, and there is a lesser market-house, for cheese, bacon, and other commodities. It is governed by a bailiff. At the end of the town is a long

long bridge, whereof one half is in *Wiltshire*. The church is a vicarage, worth 120*l.* a year: it is a good building, large and handsome, in which are divers monuments. Here are a free-school, and an alms-house. The town seems to be well furnished with every thing but water, which is so scarce, that the inhabitants are obliged to buy it at the rate sometimes of 18*d.* for an hoghead. In the parish rises the river *Avon*, which runs through *Bristol*, and afterwards falls into the *Severn*.

Wickwar, a small market-town, but a very ancient corporation, governed by a mayor, is the next. The church is a large edifice, with two aisles. The tower is at the west end, and is high, adorned with pinacles. Here is a free-school.

Chipping-Sodbury lies a little farther in the road, an ancient borough-town, under a mayor, aldermen, and burgessees. As it is a great thoroughfare to *Bristol*, it is full of good inns. It has several streets, besides lanes, a good market, and a large spacious church, which, however, is but a chapel of ease to *Old Sodbury*. Here is the greatest cheese-market in *England*, except *Atherstone* in *Warwickshire*.

Here we dropped the road, and fell down southward, directly to *Marshfield*, another of the clothing-towns I spoke of. It consists of one street of old buildings, near a mile long. It has a market, and drives also a great trade in malt, and is noted for good cakes. It is governed by a bailiff. Here is a good church, in which are several monuments and inscriptions. Here is also an alms-house well endowed, and a chapel to it.

We crossed the great road from *London* to *Bristol* here, as at *Cirencester* we did that from *London* to *Gloucester*; and, keeping still the *Fosse* way, arrived at *Bath*.

L E T T E R V.

Containing a Description of part of the Counties of SOMERSET, GLOUCESTER, WARWICK, WORCESTER, HEREFORD, and MONMOUTH.

THE antiquity of the city of *Bath*, and of the famous baths in it, is great, though we should doubt of what is insisted on in the inscription under the figure of King *Bladud*, placed in *The King's Bath*, which says, that this prince (whom Mr. *Camden* calls *Blayden*, or *Bladen Cloyth*, i. e. *Soothsayer*) found out the use of these baths, 863 years before our Saviour's time.

Bath is a spot of ground, which our countrymen ought to esteem as a particular favour of Heaven. It lies in a great valley, surrounded with hills amphitheatrically disposed; and its situation on the west side of the island is a considerable addition to its delights, as being the less liable to the rude shocks of tempests. The walls are almost entire, and inclose but a small compass, of a pentagonal form. There are four gates on four sides, and a postern on the other. From the south-west angle have been an additional wall and ditch carried out to the river; by which short work, the approach of an enemy on two sides is intercepted, unless they pass the river. The small compass of the city has made the inhabitants crowd up the streets to an unseemly and inconvenient narrowness. It is, however, handsomely built, mostly of stone.

It was of old a resort for cripples, and diseased persons; and we see the crutches hang up at the several baths, as the thank-offerings of those who came
hither

hither lame, and went away cured. But now we may say it is a resort of the sound, as well as the sick, and a place that helps the indolent, and the gay, to commit that worst of murders, that is to say, to *kill time*.

To such indeed it is a constant round of diversion. In the morning, the young lady is brought in a close chair, dressed in her bathing-cloaths, to the *Cross-bath*. There the music plays her into the bath, and the women who attend her, present her with a little floating wooden dish, like a bason; into which the lady puts an handkerchief and a nosegay, and of late years the snuff-box and smelling-bottle are added. She then traverses the bath, if a novice, with a guide; if otherwise, by herself; and having amused herself near an hour, calls for her chair, and returns to her lodgings.

The booksellers shops also are much resorted to, where, at a certain subscription, there is liberty allowed to read, or permission to send for books to your own lodgings. In the evening the company assemble at the rooms, where there are balls twice a week, and card-assemblies every evening. The play-house, which is very elegant and commodious, and retains a company of comedians little inferior to those in London, is also very much frequented.

To enquire into the nature and qualities of the Bath waters, and to enter upon the chemical experiments necessary on this occasion, would not only be foreign to my present purpose, but would require a volume of itself. I shall therefore only mention the following particulars, which I have extracted from Dr. *Falconer's Essay on the Bath Waters*. Those who chuse to pursue this subject, will find it copiously treated in that learned and ingenious work.

“Three glass bottles, each of a quart contents, were filled severally with the waters of the *King's Bath*, the *Hot Bath*, and the *Cross Bath*, then immediately

mediately closed up, and set to stand. They all, when first filled, appeared at first sight colourless and pellucid; but, on a more accurate inspection, I could perceive many minute white particles floating in each of them; nor could I discover, on the closest examination, which of the springs had this appearance in the greatest degree. After standing twenty-four hours, they had all deposited a very slight ochorous sediment, only just perceivable in the waters of the *Hot* and *Cross* baths, but more discoverable in that of the *King's* bath; though even in this, the quantity precipitated was extremely small. This sediment is collected round the edges of all the baths, but more remarkably in the *King's* bath.

"None of the waters have any particular smell, that I could discover, either in the waters themselves, or in the vapour arising from them.

"These waters are all slightly saline, accompanied with an agreeable pungency, added to a light chalybeate taste.

"The heat of these waters is variously laid down: According to the best experiments I could make, the heat of the *King's* bath water, and that of the other baths, as commonly drank, is as follows: *King's* bath, 116; *Hot* bath, 116; *Cross* bath, 112. I once found the thermometer raised by the *King's* bath, after pumping, to 118 degrees; but I imagine this rarely happens: so that, I suppose, the general heat at which they are taken, scarce exceeds 116 degrees."

I would by no means wish to injure Dr. *Falconer's Essay* by this *partial* extract; for whoever looks into that work, will find, that it is impossible to abridge a book, of which every page is valuable.

Great additions have been made to the buildings within these few years, and are still making. Without the walls, a stately new square is erected, with a fine chapel; and the middle is inclosed by rails, and handsomely laid out within. In the center is a lofty

obelisk 70 feet high from the foundation, and terminated in a point.

The *Bath-stone* affords a fine opportunity to embellish and give a noble look to the buildings here, and at a very cheap rate.

The grove, too, near the abbey-church, now called *Orange-square*, in compliment of the late Prince of *Orange*, has several handsome new built houses; and a monumental stone is erected, with an inscription in honour of the Prince of *Orange*, and the place, his Highness having been obliged to visit *Bath* for his health, just before he married the Princess Royal of *England*, and received great benefit by the waters. This likewise was erected by the late famous Mr. *Nash*, to whose good management and behaviour, *Bath* is greatly indebted; every one submitting with delight to the regulations he imposed regarding decorum, and the good order of the place.

The late marshal *Wade*, when one of the representatives in parliament for this city, gave a fine altar piece to the great church there: he was also at the charge of having the picture drawn of every one of his electors (the members of the corporation,) and set up round the town-hall; and his own too he suffered to be put over the entrance, as if he would make good that pass, and keep them all to duty. At the upper end of the hall, are lately set up the pictures of the late Prince and *Augusta* Princess of *Wales*, a present by their Royal Highnesses to the corporation, who likewise before presented it with a fine large wrought silver cup and waiter, gilt.

The *Abbey-Church* is a venerable pile, and has many monuments in it. But the principal front is almost blasphemously decorated, if it may be called decorated, with the figures of God the Father, and Saints and Angels, the work of superstition.

On the south-side are the justly renowned hot
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springs, collected into a square area, called *The King's Bath*.

This water is admirably grateful to the stomach. Tho' you drink off a large pint glass, it is so far from creating an heaviness or nausea, that you immediately perceive yourself more alert.

Behind the southern wall of *The King's Bath* is a less square, named *The Queen's Bath*, with a tabernacle of four pillars in the midst.

The Hot Bath is a small parallelogram, with a stone tabernacle of four pillars in the midst.

The Cross Bath near it is triangular, and had a cross in the middle. Hard by is an hospital, built and endowed by a prelate of this see. The water in these two places rises near the level of the streets.

Within these few years, by a contribution, a cold bath, for the benefit of the infirm, was made at a spring beyond the bridge.

The Duke of *Kingston*, some years before his death, erected some private baths upon a very excellent construction, for those who chose to bathe in privacy at their own time.

The access to the hills about *Bath* grow every day better, by the prudence and good management of the commissioners of the turnpike-roads; so that, though few people cared to keep coaches here formerly, yet the use of those machines has greatly increased of late years. Before the first turnpike-act was obtained, the direct road to *Lansdown* was so steep, that *Queen Anne* was extremely frightened in going up: her coachman stopping to give the horses breath, and the coach wanting a dragstaff, it ran back, in spite of all the coachman's skill; the horses not being brought to strain the harness again, or pull together, for a good while, the coach putting the guards behind in confusion; at last, some of the servants,

setting,

setting their heads and shoulders to the wheels, stopped them by mere force.

The general hospital in this city, for the reception of the sick poor all over the kingdom, is a noble design. The first stone of it was laid the 6th of July 1738. It is 100 feet in front, and 90 feet deep, and capable of receiving 150 poor cripples.

His late Majesty King *George II.* Prince *Frederick*, the Princess Dowager, and some of the Princesses, were great promoters of this work; and, among other benefactors, the widow of the late Mr. *Holding*, of *London*, and the late Mr. *Allen*, of *Prior-Park*, near *Bath*, were the chief: the former giving 2000*l.* in money, and Mr. *Allen* permitting the trustees of the charity to fetch from his stone-yard all the wall-stone, wrought free-stone, paving-stone, and lime, that were necessary to be added to the stone which the buildings that were taken down produced, to complete the masons-work of the hospital, besides giving a very large sum of money.

The stone-yard just mentioned of this great because good man, who might be styled *The Genius of Bath*, is on the banks of the *Avon*. In it is wrought the free-stone dug from the quarries on *Comb-Down*, which is another part of *Odin's-Down* purchased by him. There is likewise a wharf to embark the same stone in unwrought blocks, which are brought down from the quarry by an admirable machine, that runs upon a frame of timber, of about a mile and an half in length, placed partly upon walls, and partly upon the ground, like the waggon-ways belonging to the collieries in the north of *England*. Two horses draw one of these machines, generally loaded with two or three tons of stone, over the most easy part of the descent; but afterwards its own velocity carries it down the rest, and with so much precipitation, that the man who guides it is sometimes obliged

liged to lock every wheel of the carriage to stop it; which he can do with great ease, by means of bolts applied to the front-wheels, and lavers to the back-wheels.

The free-stone of the hills about *Bath* can be carried by the *Avon* to *Bristol*, whence it may be transported to any part of *England*; and the new works of *St. Bartholomew's* hospital in *London*, as well as the exchange of *Bristol*, are built with stone from *Mr. Allen's* quarry.

This gentleman built for himself a very magnificent seat; and placed it almost at the top of the side of the hill, where the chief quarry, from whence the new buildings of *Bath* have been supplied with free-stone, is situated. The seat crowns with the greatest beauty a large court on the north-side of the mountain, anciently dedicated to the *British* god of war; and, from that dent on the ascent of the hill, a village towards the lower part of it was denominated *Widcomb*, in which there is a good house belonging to *Mr. Bennet*.

Mr. Allen's seat, now called *Prior-Park*, commands a prospect, as delightful as it is possible for the imagination to conceive, the city of *Bath* being the chief object, and towards it the principal front of the house is turned. The seat consists of an house in the centre, two pavilions, and two wings of offices, all united by arcades, and making a continued curved line of building of above 1000 feet in front, of which the house takes about 150 feet, and is of the *Corinthian* order, elevated upon a rustic basement, and crowned with a ballustrade; the centre advancing forward, and making one of the largest and most correct hecstasy porticoes in the kingdom. The order includes two stories, and the house has 15 windows in the length of it. The portico, together with a *Corinthian* hall in the principal story, a chapel on the same floor of the *Ionic* order supporting

supporting the *Corinthian*, and a *Corinthian* gallery extending over the hall, and the rooms on each side of it, all finished with free-stone, are the beauties and curiosities of the pile.

The gardens to this seat consist of two terraces, and two slopes, lying northward before the house, with winding walks made through a little coppice opening to the westward of those slopes; but all these are adorned with vases, and other ornaments, in stonework; and the affluence of water is so great, that it is received at three different places, after many little agreeable falls, at the head of one of which there is a statue of *Moses* down to the knees, in an attitude expressive of the admiration he must have been in after striking the rock, and seeing the water gush out of it. The winding walks were made with great labour; and, though no broader than for two or three to walk abreast, yet in some places they appear with little cliffs on one side, and with small precipices on the other. These things we may esteem as beauties; but if we leave them, and go to what may be called the greater part of the gardens, I mean to the rides which are made through the adjoining lands, the real beauties of nature will appear in great abundance: Mr. *Allen* might put the natural terrace in the brow of the hill above his house in competition with the greatest work that ever was made to adorn a seat; and on that terrace the statue of the late Marshal *Wade* is placed: for where could the figure of a great soldier stand so properly, as on an hill sacred to the god of war?

Mr. *Allen*, whose worth has been celebrated by *Pepe*, *Warburton*, and *Hurd*, with as much truth, warmth, and elegance, has been dead some years, to the great loss of his neighbourhood, his friends, and his country.

Bath is now become of very great extent, from the great increase of new buildings, as it is not only
a place

a place of occasional resort for health or pleasure, but the perpetual residence of many people of fashion and fortune. The parades are a magnificent pile of building; the square is a very noble one, and the circus, whose form and appearance resemble that of an inverted Roman theatre, is a very beautiful piece of architecture, containing many excellent houses. Near to this is another building, not long completed, called the *Crescent*, from the form in which it stands. The whole front consists of a range of *Ionic* columns on a rustic basement, and comprehending a very large span, offers a very grand object to the eye of the spectator. The ground falls gradually before it down to the river, at about half a mile distance; and the rising country on the other side of the *Avon* holds up to it a most delightful prospect.

A new bridge has also been erected by Mr. *Poulteney*, the heir of the late Lord *Bath*, and the general his brother, which was designed to communicate with a projected road that was to cut off a very considerable elbow now made in the *London* road, and of course to shorten the distance; but this scheme at present stands still. The bridge is of stone, with commodious little shops on each side of it.

But among the various additions and improvements to *Bath*, the New Rooms must not be forgotten: they are really magnificent, and, except the *Pantheon* and the *Ranelagh Rotunda*, exceed every thing of the kind in this kingdom, both as to size and decoration. The rooms at the end of the north parade, formerly kept by Mr. *Wiltshire*, have been, for some years, shut up; so that the New Rooms and those kept by Mr. *Gyde*, between the Orange Grove and North Parade, share all the business between them; but not without disputes and jealousies, which have, more than once, disturbed the peace of

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Bath, created violent parties, and interrupted its pleasures.

Mr. *Nash*, whose statue in marble is in the Pump Room, and whose name will live while *Bath* remains, made many excellent regulations which are still in a great measure adhered to. Among which, the forbidding any one to appear with a sword, is not the least useful or remarkable. But successive masters of the ceremonies, depending upon public balls and subscriptions for their income, do not possess, and could not, if they did, exert the power which Mr. *Nash*, who preserved an entire independence, so universally obtained, to which the first men and, what is more, the first women in the kingdom cheerfully submitted.

The political government of this city is under the direction of a mayor, aldermen and common council, who attend, with great care, to the police of the place. The convenience of chairs is, here, very great; and the chairmen subject to very excellent regulations. They are obliged to go 500 yards for sixpence, and to every other part of the town for a shilling. A magistrate attends at the town hall every *Monday*, at a stated time, to settle disputes relative to them, and to inflict the appointed punishments if they shall be found to deserve them.

The town hall, which stood in the middle of the *High-street*, is now pulled down, and a very handsome one erecting near the market, which is one of the best in *England*. Mr. *Wood*, the architect, to whom and to his father, *Bath* is indebted for almost all its beautiful structures, made the design for this building.

Besides the Abbey, St. *James's* and St. *Philips's* churches and the chapel in the square, there is an octagon chapel in *Milsum-street*, with recesses warmed with stoves, where pews are to be hired by the month, quarter or year. Here is also another building

ing of the same kind near the *Crescent*. To these may be added, Lady *Huntingdon's* chapel, which is a very spacious, handsome structure, and very much frequented by people of distinction, as the singing part of the church service is performed there in very great perfection. There is also a Quaker's meeting, with places of worship for Dissenters, Moravians and Roman Catholics.

Bath has also its annual races on *Claverton Downs*, which of late years are become fashionable, and much resorted to by the sporting gentry. The plenty of this place is very great, and the articles of table luxury abound in the markets; but, as the inhabitants increase, the prices of provisions will not fail to bear their proportion and increase also.

At *Walcot*, many Roman antiquities have been found. Lord *Winchelsea* has an urn, a patera, and other things taken out of a stone coffin, wherein was a child's body, half a mile off the *Bath*.

When one is upon *Lansdown*, and has (by a winding road) passed all the difficulties of the ascent, there is a plain and pleasant country for many miles into *Gloucestershire*, and two fine houses: the one built by Mr. *Blaithwait*, secretary at war in the reign of Queen *Anne*; and the other is called *Badmington*, a mansion of the Duke of *Beaufort*.

Nor must we forget to mention the handsome monument erected, by order of the late Lord *Lansdown*, to the honour of Sir *Bevil Granville*, his lordship's ancestor, with an inscription recording the action in which he fell. It is built on the brow of *Lansdown-Hill*, on the very spot, as near as possible, where that brave gentleman was killed, in the action between him and Sir *William Waller*, in the civil wars; of which Lord *Clarendon*, and others, give account.

Just below it is *Lilliput*, a small elegant place of retirement, made by Mr. *Jerry Pierce*, an eminent

surgeon,

urgeon, who died in 1746; beautiful in itself, but much more so in respect to its situation.

We come in six miles from *Bath* to *Keinsbam*, a market-town, famous for its Abbey, founded by *William Earl of Gloucester*, about the year 1170, and granted by *Edward VI.* to *Thomas Bridges, Esq;* in the year 1553, (on the site whereof is now a handsome seat of his descendant the Duke of *Chandois*) as well as for its having been the capital seat of the *Angi*, as *Camden* interprets the name. The town is situated by the side of a small river, that runs into the *Avon*, and extends to the confluence of the two streams. It is built upon a rock, productive of an infinite number of fossils in the shape of serpents, piled up; and credulous people formerly believed, that they were real serpents, changed into stones by the *Keina*, a devout *British* virgin, from whom they likewise denominated the town.

Keinsbam river is noted for producing multitudes of little eels in the spring of the year: these the people catch, when they are about two inches long; and, having boiled them, they make them into small cakes, for sale. These elver-cakes they dispose of at *Bath* and *Bristol*; and when they are fried, and eaten with butter, nothing is more delicious.

The city of *Bristol* is four miles and a half from this town, 12 from *Bath*, and 115 from *London*. It is the second city in *Great Britain*; it is the largest town, and the richest and best port of trade, *London* only excepted.

It was called by the *Britons*, *Caer Oder nant Badon*, i. e. the city *Oder* in *Badon* valley. In the catalogue of ancient cities it is named *Caer Brito*; and in *Saxon Brightstowe*, a bright, pleasant, or famous place; from hence *Bristow*, and of late *Bristol*.

It is first mentioned by *Florence of Worcester*, who tells us that in 1063, *Harold* set sail from *Brystowe* to invade *Wales*. It was rated to the King in doomsday

day book 110 marks of silver. *Geoffry* Bishop of *Constance* raising a rebellion against *William Rufus* well fortified this city: its walls, &c. were afterwards destroyed by the same King.

Bristol was formerly a place of great strength. King *Stephen* was imprisoned in its castle by *Matilda* the Empress, which was besieged in the civil war and made a good defence. It was built by *Robert* illegitimate son of *Henry I.* who besieged King *Stephen* in it. It was large and strong, half a mile in circumference, and surrounded with a broad and deep ditch. It was demolished by *Oliver Cromwell*, and afterwards built into streets.

In 1362, the staple of wool was established here by *Edward III.* who made it a county of itself. It stands on the rivers *Avon* and *Froome*, between the counties of *Gloucester* and *Somerset*; King *Henry VIII.* made it a bishopric.

The merchants of this city have not only the greatest trade, (for before the *American* war, the annual amount of the customs was more than 200,000*l.*) but they trade with more independance on *London*, than any other town in *Britain*. Whatever exports they make, they are able to bring the full returns back, and dispose of them at their own port; and as they have a great trade abroad, so they have always sufficient buyers at home for their returns. The shopkeepers at *Bristol* are generally wholesale men, and maintain carriers to all the principal towns from *Southampton* to the banks of the *Trent*; and by sea and the rivers *Wye* and *Severn*, they have the whole trade of *South Wales* and part of *North Wales* to themselves. Their trade with *Ireland* is prodigiously increased since the Revolution; from whence they import tallow, linen, woollen and bay yarn. Their trade to the *West Indies*, of which they were some of the first discoverers and adventurers, is very considerable; as is also their *Guinea* trade. Their *West India* ships

ships sail and arrive in fleets. They carry on the Dutch, *Hamburgh*, *Norway*, *Eastland* and *Russian* commerce. They send ships to *Newfoundland* and the *Mediterranean*, and import great quantities of fruit, wine and oil.

The situation of *Bristol*, for its convenience for trade, its deep river (which is very rapid, and flows 60 feet and sometimes into the streets, and will bring a ship of 1000 tons up to *Bristol* bridge) its having such plenty of coals dug all around it, and of stones for lime, building and paving; and these and the coals rendered at so cheap a rate; its enjoying the benefits of a mineral water; the delightful and populous country about it; its salubrious air; many fine land and sea prospects; well built houses and romantic scenes; always attracts the attention and respect of travellers and foreigners.

The greater part of *Bristol* lies in a vale of uneven surface, surrounded with pleasant hills; from which the city and its lofty towers make an august and venerable object. This city is said very much to resemble old *Rome*, its plan being nearly circular, with a greater diameter one way than another, and the river cutting off about a sixth from the rest; also it stands on seven hills (that to the north being very lofty and the houses overlooking the city and country) and its river is similar to the *Tyber* in width and colour.

Bristol has two navigable rivers running through it. *Bristol* bridge, first built more than 500 years ago, and lately rebuilt, is over the *Avon*; consists of three wide and lofty arches; has a fine stone ballustrade on each side, 7 feet high; raised foot-ways chained in; two (kind of) domes at each end for bill-houses, and is well lighted with lamps. All the avenues to the bridge are widened and newly built; and it presents an agreeable prospect of the new buildings in *Bridge-street*, *St. Nicholas* church, and part of

of the river and key. Over the river *Froome* is the draw-bridge, raised by a curious piece of mechanism, which has also two arches of stone, and an handsome octagon-house at each end. From hence the ships at the key appear as trees in a forest. There are, besides, over this river, twelve bridges of stone, and four of wood. The river *Avon* has a very disagreeable aspect to strangers at low water, but when full, a good effect. The rivers afford some salmon, plenty of eels, plaise, flounders, and sand'dabs, immense quantities of elvers, and higher up, trout, roche, and dace.

The key on the rivers *Avon* and *Froome* is now completed, is very noble and spacious, in circuit, upwards of a measured mile, and the longest and best in *England*. The great crane, the work of the ingenious Mr. *Padmore*, they say, has not its equal in *Europe*. All the other cranes on the key, which are numerous, are of the same internal construction.

On the banks of the river are several dock-yards, and dry and floating docks, for building and repairing the shipping. The merchants floating dock, now just finished, exceeds in dimensions any at *Portsmouth* or *Plymouth*. It is in the road to the *Hotwells*. About two miles below, is a fine dock, capable of containing 150 ships, and a bason, called *Sea-mill Dock*.

There were, when I was at *Bristol*, no less than fifteen glass-houses in it; great numbers of bottles are used for sending the water of *St. Vincent's* rocks to all parts of *England* and the world. Here are also upwards of twenty large sugar-houses; several turpentine, sulphur, and vitriol houses; large distilleries, and brass and iron founderies; considerable manufactures of woollen stuffs, shalloons, duroys, plush, ferges, silk, lace, broad-cloth and sail-cloth; particularly the china manufactory in *Castle-green*, where they exceed the foreign china, both in figure and

vase,

safe, and render it a little cheaper. On account of the trades which require large fires, and the great quantities of coal profusely burnt at *Bristol*, there is generally a thick cloud of smoke over the city.

All kinds of persons are free to exercise their trades and callings here, without molestation from the corporation; and if poor, they may, if they please, purchase the freedom of the city for a very moderate sum.

Bristol is peopled with an heterogeneous mixture from *Wales*, *Ireland*, *Scotland*, *America*, *Gloucestershire*, *Somersetshire*, and *Devonshire*, the other neighbouring counties, and almost all parts of *England* and the world. Here are people of different countries, languages, and religions; so that any general characteristic of its inhabitants cannot be given. Its gentry, merchants, and capital traders, are as polite, and as superb in their town and country houses, equipages, servants, and amusements, as any in the kingdom. And they cannot well be otherwise, with *Bath* on one side, and the *Hotwells*, a resort of nobility and gentry, under their eye. Its shopkeepers are remarkable for their activity, industry, and obliging, upright, and punctual behaviour in their businesses. Literature and genteel education are much cultivated in *Bristol*; and it abounds with agreeable women, whose mode of dress is universally approved. People of rank and education here, as every where else, pronounce with propriety; but some of the *bourgeois* speak a broad dialect, much worse than the common people in the metropolis, though they are not willing to acknowledge it.

The increase of this city on all sides, and its new buildings and improvements, are scarce credible. Upwards of 4000 houses have been built on new foundations since the commencement of this century, and it is continually increasing. The internal and trading parts of the city are partly antique, high, irregular,

irregular, and projecting, and built of wood and plaister, with many houses, and some entire streets (*viz. Bridge-street, Clare-street, and Union-street,*) of brick and stone; and all other kinds of buildings are now prohibited by act of parliament. The heart of the city is rather closely built, but the streets are now much widened and improved, and several are totally rebuilt. Its external parts are very spacious and agreeable, elegantly built of brick and stone, and inhabited by gentry, merchants, and people out of business. There are parades and convenient and agreeable places to walk in at almost every part of the town; particularly *Redclift-parade*, which commands a pleasant prospect of part of the city and harbour.

The city has of late years been newly paved, with smooth pavements on the sides for foot-passengers, executed very neatly. It has been long lighted with lamps; but of late they have been increased, and the lighting is exceeded only in *London*.

The city has plenty of good water from public pumps and conduits; the most remarkable of which is the conduit in *Temple-street*, which is of stone, and has upon it a noble statue of *Neptune*, much admired. The whole is inclosed by an iron pallisade. Also the river water is brought under ground into every street, and may be had in every house for an annual payment. There are vaults or common sewers (here called *goutes*) throughout the whole city; and perhaps there is not an house which has not a communication with the main sewers; a provision for cleanliness, not so universal in any city in the world. Cart and waggons are used here as in other places, with some sledges, or drays.

Most of the better sort of gentry, traders, and medical men, keep carriages here; and there is a great number of hackney-coaches to be had at moderate prices; though there is an utter impossibility,

an account of the concourse, for many to stand in the streets. There are daily stages to *Bath*, the *Hottel*, and most of the neighbouring towns and villages. It is common to see upwards of 100 carriages at the doors of the theatre or concert-room.

The theatre in *King-street* is about the dimensions of *Drury-lane*, perhaps rather less; but is a perfect model of elegance and convenience: the internal part round the pit is semicircular; and *Bristol* had the honour of leading this fashion in *England*. The carvings, gildings, &c. which are very simple and corrected, have a very good effect. Plays are acted only in the summer, by the King's servants from both houses, for strollers are not admitted here.

There are many genteel houses of entertainment about the city, with neat walks and gardens, and very good accommodations. Convenience and elegance are now attended to at *Bristol*, and it affords every gratification a reasonable person can desire.

The city library in *King-street* is a handsome stone building, with literary emblems in the front. It contains a copious and excellent collection of the best ancient and modern authors. It is reduced to a system, and is continually augmenting, by a large number of annual subscribers, for purchasing new publications. It has a librarian, who is always a clergyman.

The gates of *Bristol*, which were fourteen or sixteen, are mostly demolished. *Temple-gate*, a modern and very noble triumphal arch of stone, with two bastions, remains; as does *Newgate*, which is the city-gaol for felons and debtors. This prison has been enlarged and improved by act of parliament, and is very healthy and convenient. It has an handsome chapel, and an ordinary to officiate in it. Also *Ridwell-gates*, which include a large well-built prison on each side of the way, the other city-prison for commitment and correction. *St. John's Gate* is remarkable for two ancient statues of the Kings *Belinus*

and *Brenus*, and for its having on it the steeple of the adjacent church, (in which are six bells,) and on that a stone spire; the whole structure 150 feet from the ground. A piece of the city-wall, near half a mile in length, remains on the *Somersetshire* side.

According to a survey made in 1736, the city was in circumference 4 miles and a half on the *Gloucestershire*, and 2 miles and a half on the *Somersetshire* side, in all, 7 miles. Since that, its houses have been increased more than a fourth part, and its dimensions enlarged by an act of parliament passed last year. The liberties now extend down to the end of the buildings at *Rownam-passage*, within a bow-shot of the *Hotwells*. The number of houses in the city itself is 10,000, and of inhabitants 60,000. The suburbs in both the adjacent counties are very large and populous; that without *Lawford's Gate* consisting of 30 streets well peopled. The environs for about a mile round the city are uncommonly thick set with houses, and very populous. And the whole collection of buildings, including the out-parishes of *St. James*, and *St. Philip and Jacob*; the parishes of *St. George*, *Bedminster*, and *Clifton*, and the *Hotwells*, greatly enlarged; all of which join to the suburbs of the city, is computed to contain 100,000 souls.

The government of this city is administered by a mayor, who is a great officer, (and before the *American* war had 1500*l.* to support the dignity of his office; his salary is now fixed at 1000*l.*) and seldom or never seen in the streets, unless in his coach during his mayoralty; twelve aldermen, all justices of the peace; two sheriffs, each of whom is allowed 400*l.* during his office; twenty-eight common-council, town-clerk, deputy town-clerk, chamberlain, vice-chamberlain, clerks of the court of conscience, under-sheriff, sword-bearer, &c. There are other officers subject to the corporation; eight serjeants at

mace, two coroners, criers of the courts, water-bailiffs, key-masters, common cryer, school-masters, clerks of the markets, exchange-keeper, club-men, messengers, beadles, a city-marshal, and a good band of musicians; all of whom have their proper gowns and dresses, and precede the corporation in processions, which they always make in a number of their own elegant coaches. Gentlemen of the greatest worth and capital in this city and its environs, deem it an honour to serve this large community in the magistratical capacity.

The city is divided into twelve wards; each of which has an alderman, one chief constable, and twelve others; a night-constable, watchmen, scavengers, lamp-lighters, round-houses, &c. The guard-house, or barracks for soldiers, is in *Wine-street*.

The corporation have three processions in a year, viz. at *Michaelmas*, when the mayor is sworn into his office; 29th of *May*, and 5th of *November*, when the eldest scholar of the city grammar-school, standing on a brass pillar in the street, at the *Tolzey*, commemorates the deliverance in a *Latin* oration to the mayor, who attends to him at the council-house door; and when the declaimer dismounts, rewards him with a piece or pieces of gold, as Mr. Mayor thinks proper; but the throng is always so great, that very little is heard.

The mayor, recorder, and aldermen, hold sessions for all capital and criminal causes within the city and liberties, which extend below the mouth of the river to the *Holmes* in *Bristol* channel.

Here are upwards of thirty other incorporations, of which the society of merchant-venturers is the most respectable; consisting of some of the principal gentlemen of the city and environs, and of the neighbouring nobility; generally of the prime minister, or some of the secretaries of state; and it has been ho-

noured by the names of some of the royal families. Notwithstanding its name, it is not merely a trading society, but formed for the *promotion* of the trade, commerce, and improvement of the city, and always acts in conjunction with the corporation, in carrying on these great ends. The merchant-tailors, mercers, &c. are considerable bodies of people, and maintain various charities.

Among the public buildings, we may reckon the *Exchange* in *Corn-street*, which cost 50,000*l.* was opened 1743, and is esteemed the completest of its kind in *Europe*. Its front is 110 feet, depth 148, and is made capable of containing 1440 persons. The place for the merchants is a peristyle of the *Corinthian* order, 80 feet in breadth, and 90 in length. The whole building, inside and outside, is of stone. The places between the capitals of the columns and pilasters in the front, are filled with festoons, which represent *Great Britain* and the four quarters of the world, with the chief products and manufactures of every country. Before the *Exchange*, and on the *Tolzey*, are some of the old brass pillars, used for transacting business before the *Exchange* was built.

The *Post-office* is an elegant and convenient stone structure, at the west end of the *Exchange*. Its annual revenue is 10,000*l.*

The *Council-house* was built 1701, and is a good stone building, with niches in the front. But it wants another story, and some turret or dome, to indicate it a public building. From the street you enter a public hall, in which the mayor, or two or three of the aldermen, attend every day from 12 to 3, to administer justice to the crowds who resort to it. Here the courts of conscience and of common-council are held; here is the chamberlain's office; here the city attornies and clerks are constantly employed, and the public business mostly transacted. In the council-chambers

chambers are some fine portraits and pictures of royal and other august and honourable personages.

The *Guildhall*, in *Broad-street*, is an ancient *Gothic* building; has in the middle of the front a statue of *Charles II.* on the south side of the statue are the windows of the hall; and on the north, the great *Gothic* window of *St. George's* chapel, in which the mayor is chosen. The hall is large, lofty, and very convenient; has an hustings and galleries for the audience at each end. The building takes up a deal of ground, and contains several necessary rooms for offices and juries, and a house for the keeper. Here are held the general gaol-delivery, court of *Nisi Prius*, of quarter-sessions, the sheriffs courts, and elections for members.

The *Custom-house* in *Queen's-square* is a noble brick building, with a piazza of stone pillars of the *Ionian* order before it. The long-room, where the business is done, is inferior in size to few rooms in the kingdom.

The *Assembly-room* in *Princess-street*, for balls and concerts, is about 90 feet long, and a lofty highly-finished receptacle. It is of stone; has a magnificent front, a rustic basement, supporting double pillars of the *Corinthian* order, crowned by an open pediment, under which is this inscription: "*Curas Cithara tollit.*" It has a master of the ceremonies, distinct from the *Hotwells*.

The *Merchants Hall*, in the same street, is a very capacious structure of stone, inclosed by a grand iron pallisade, and has a curious front. It consists of a flight of magnificent rooms, and is one of the first halls in *England*.

The *Coopers Hall*, in *King-street*, has a very superb front, with four noble columns of the *Corinthian* order, an attic story, and lofty pediment, well deserving the attention of a stranger.

Merchant-taylors Hall, *Broad-street*, is a free-stone building,

building, near 70 feet long, and breadth proportionable.

There are several handsome streets and squares in *Bristol*. In the great square called *Queen's*, the houses are uniformly built of brick and stone. On the sides are coach-ways, and about it a spacious walk shaded with trees; in the middle, a fine equestrian statue of *William III.* done by the famous *Rysbrack*. *King's-square* is spacious, pleasant, on an agreeable slope, and better lighted with lamps than *Queen's*. *St. James, Brunswick, Somerset, and Doury* squares, are all well built and inhabited.

College-green, in which stands the cathedral church, is a kind of triangle, surrounded with good buildings, is laid out in several agreeable walks, shaded with trees, and is much frequented. The cathedral, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was founded in the reign of King *Stephen*, 1140, by *Robert Fitzharding*, son to a king of *Denmark*, whose monument is just within the door. The church is in length 175 feet, the height of the tower 130, which is square, bulky, well ornamented, has four small pinacles, and is a considerable object in and about the city.

The church, though not large, has many *Gothic* beauties within, and a noble organ. It is adorned with paintings, painted windows, and several elegant monuments, ancient and modern. Behind the church is a cloister, in which are the entrances to the library and *Bishop's-palace*.

There remains, a little to the west of the church, a most beautiful *Gothic* gateway, which has four statues on each side the gate-house, of King *Henry*, &c. Over the gate, on the north side, is the following ancient inscription, entire, and perfectly legible:

*Rex Henricus Secundus, & Dominus Robertus, filius
Hardingi, filii Regis Daciæ, hujus monasterii, primi
fundatores extiterunt.*

The

The church of *St. Mark*, opposite the cathedral, was anciently a collegiate church, founded by the *Gaunts*, whose tombs are to be seen in the aisle. It is the mayor's chapel; has a fine organ, a pleasant ring of bells, and a curious *Gothic* window to the street.

The churches in *Bristol* are all neat, beautifully decorated, and worthy a traveller's attention. The monuments and inscriptions of those buried in them are carefully preserved; a practice scandalously neglected almost every where else in *England*.

Among the parish-churches, we may notice that of *St. Mary Redclift*, which *Camden* esteems, on all accounts, the finest parish-church in the kingdom. It has a grand ascent to it by stone steps; is a large and stately edifice, and executed in the very perfection of *Gothic* architecture. It has a fine tower or steeple, near 200 feet to the cock, which is very large; has a sonorous peal of eight bells, the heaviest in *Bristol* and these parts. The tenor is between 50 and 60 hundred weight. In the church is a large and fine organ; the celebrated altar-piece, painted by *Hogarth*; and many curious monuments, particularly one for the founder *William Cannings*, merchant, and five times mayor of *Bristol*. And another for Sir *William Penn*, Knt. Vice-Admiral of *England*, the father of *William Penn* the Quaker, who was a native of *Bristol*. *Temple-church*, in *Temple-street*, is remarkable for its leaning tower, which, when the bells, which are eight, ring, moves, as *Camden* expresses it, "*huc & illuc*." *St. Nicholas* church, at the bridge, is one of the finest modern rooms that can be seen, of 100 feet long, 55 broad, and without a pillar. In its tower is a deep and musical peal of eight bells, which are rung every *Thursday* evening at 8 o'clock. On the tower is a beautiful spire 202 feet high. *All Saints* church is remarkable for its elegant stone dome, or lanthorn, and the monument

numient of *Edward Colston*, Esq; *Christ-church*, for its lofty spire, musical peal of ten bells, and for the two statues of men in armour, on the south side of the church, who strike the quarters on bells; *St. Stephen's*, in *Clare-street*, for its curious Gothic tower and pinacles, of 150 feet high; and for having its furniture, pews, pulpit, altar-piece, and even doors, of mahogany; *St. James's*, for its altar-piece and organ; and *St. Michael's*, lately built and opened, for its elegant simplicity. There is a very fine organ-loft at *St. Thomas's* church, worth notice. The churches in *Bristol* are remarkable for handsome monuments, and good bells and organs. In the city are 17 parishes, 18 churches, and 5 chapels; and in the suburbs, 2 churches, and 1 chapel of the established religion, in all 26; and 15 meeting-houses and chapels for Dissenters, including *Lady Huntingdon's* chapel.

The parish of *St. James* is so prodigiously increased of late years, in handsome streets and houses, as to exceed several of our cities and large towns, both in buildings and inhabitants.

The hospitals and charitable foundations in this city, (among which are those of *Edward Colston*, Esq; that great benefactor to the city, to whose memory *November 13*, is annually observed with great solemnity, all the bells in the city being rung muffled,) are so numerous, that I must content myself with only a superficial account of the most noted.

1. *St. Peter's* hospital in *Peter-street* is a very extensive charity, for superannuated persons, orphans, ideots, and lunatics; daily makes more than 400 beds, and is supported by a tax on the inhabitants.
2. The *Bristol Infirmary* in *Earl-street*, *St. James's*, is an extensive stone building, with wings, and a spacious court before it. It is an unlimited charity, supported by donations and annual subscriptions; has 150 in, and numerous out patients.
3. *Colston's* hospital,

hospital, in *St. Augustine's Back*, for maintaining and educating 100 boys, for seven years each, and apprenticing them with 10*l.* a piece. This charity cost the founder 40 or 50 thousand pounds. 4. The *City Free-grammar-school*, in *Orchard-street*, for instructing citizens sons in *Latin* and *Greek*, founded by *Robert Thorne*, has two fellowships in *St. John's-college, Oxon*, and five exhibitions. It is largely endowed, and is now perhaps the first school in the west of *England*. 5. Another *Free Grammar-school*, over the bridge in *Redclift church*. 6. *Colston's Alms-house*, on *St. Michael's hills*, for 12 men and 12 women. The front and sides are of free-stone; it has a great chapel, and chaplain, who reads prayers twice a day. This charity cost the founder 25,000*l.* 7. *Queen Elizabeth, or The City-hospital*, for clothing, maintaining, and educating 50 boys. 8. *Foster's Alms-houses*, and chapel, in *Steep-street*, for 14 men and women. 9. The *Presbyterian Alms-house* and charity-school, in *Stokes-croft*, for clothing and educating 30 boys, and for 12 old women; a very good building. 10. The *Merchants Hospital*, in *King-street*, for seamen and seamens widows. 11. *Merchant-tailors Hospital*, in *Merchant-street*. 12. *Ridley's Hospital*, in *Milk-street*, for old bachelors and maids, a stone building, well endowed. 13. The *Red Maids School*, for 40 girls, in *College-green*. 14. *Colston's Charity-school*, in *Temple-street*, for instructing and clothing 40 boys. 15. *Elbridge's Charity-school*, in *St. Michael's Hill*, for boys and girls. 16. *Quakers Work-house* and school. 17. *Dr. White's Hospital*, in *Temple-street*, for old men. 18. *Trinity-hospital*, in the *Old Market*, which, with the other schools, hospitals, and charitable institutions, amount to 52. There is risen annually for the poor, and other charitable institutions, upwards of 20,000*l.* and there are 1500 persons in the city and suburbs who live entirely on public charity; besides

above 6000 others, who are partially maintained and assisted with money or medicines.

The general market has a grand entrance from *High-street*, of stone; consisting of a lofty gate, two posterns, a gatehouse, crowned by a turret. The market consists principally of rows for butchers, and three piazzas for poultry, cheese and butter, &c. of which the middle is exceeding noble: there are very convenient stalls for vegetables. The market for its construction, vast plenty and constant throng on market days, can scarcely be equalled. *St. James's* market in *Union-street*, and the *Welch* market at *King's street*, are very neat and convenient; the latter is a curiosity, being square, having its roof supported only by sixteen pillars, an iron pallisade round it and a turret on the top, and is just finished. There is an astonishing plenty and variety of provisions, fruits and vegetables, in the markets of *Bristol*, unknown out of the west of *England*, as is the reasonable prices at which they are sold.

Near the street called *St. Michael's hill*, on the very top of the north part of *Bristol*, is the house of *Thomas Tyndale, Esq*; built of stone, with three fine fronts to the park; which is one of the best frequented walks of *Bristol*, and has indescribable beauties. Beneath is the vale to the west of *College-green*, in which are seen many new streets and buildings. To the north of these buildings and opposite the park is *Brandon-hill*, a kind of conic eminence, which commands a most admirable prospect of great part of the city, *Dundry hill* and tower, beautiful villages of *Clifton*, the *Downs* and *Welch* mountains, *King's wood* and *Bath*, and the river *Avon*.

Underneath this and *Clifton* hills, the buildings are continued from *Bristol* to the *Hot-wells*, which is so increased of late as to become a handsome town. It has a decent square, two or three parades, a handsome chapel and prayers every day; two assembly

rooms,

rooms, the long room, and other rooms, which front each other, and are large, elegant and commodious. They have balls and public breakfasts alternately, and card playing every night.

There are convenient and magnificent lodgings here, and at the delightful village of *Clifton*, on the hill above, which is full of gentlemens seats; that of *Gabriel Goldney*, Esq; a quaker, has a pretty grotto in the garden and other curiosities.

There is a shaded parade or walk, by the well-house for the company, though not large enough: when the river is full, and the ships are carried up and down by the tide, passing through the meadows and trees, or between the rocks, the prospect is enchanting.

The well-house has a small piazza, and a handsome and very pleasant pump room, close by the water side; where the river makes its entrance between those stupendous cliffs of rocks, which seem to have been torn asunder by a violent earthquake, or the general deluge; between high and low water mark, the spring rises perpendicularly out of the rock in the sloping bank of the river, at the foot of the cliff, on which once stood a chapel dedicated to *St. Vincent*, from which the rock and well take their name. The pumps raise the water up thirty feet high in the centre of a house called the *Pump Room*, whose thick wall keeps off the tide from the spring. The water is drank chiefly in the summer months. There is a band of music every morning at the *Pump Room*, and a master of the ceremonies, to conduct all the concerns of the place, who is distinguished by a gold medal at his breast.

“The water is impregnated by the lime stone quarries with a soft alcalious quality, with some weak impregnation of sulphur, with nitre or sea salt, and perhaps a slight touch of iron. These principles by chemical processes and mixtures, are dis-

covered in some small proportion in the waters, which are of an agreeable, not sickly warmth. They are excellent in all scorbutic and nervous atrophies, in hectic, diabetes, weak lungs, all inflammations in any part, ail preternatural evacuations, acrid juices and viscid blood; and in the first stages of a phthisis pulmonum; and if early had recourse to and long continued, with a low, cooling, and nutritive regimen, would probably stop the growth and causes of most chronical distempers."

Out of the rocks beyond the hot wells, are dug the *Bristol* stones, some of which are as hard and transparent as diamonds: there are variety of agreeable rides and fine prospects all around the wells; and particularly on *Clifton* and *Durdham Down*, which are lofty, being level from the tops of the rocks. These are covered with a constant verdure all the year, and abound in odoriferous plants and herbs, which breathe a pleasant favor. On these *Downs* the company daily take the air in coaches and on horseback; and here and at *King's Weston Hill*, a mile or two nearer the sea, command a beautiful prospect of the ships lying at anchor in *King-road*, off the *Bristol* channel, and part of *South Wales*; enjoying at the same time the benefit of the sea air, which affords a constant breeze, even in the hottest weather, and strengthens and refreshes the lungs.

Bristol gives the title of Earl to Lord *Hervey*; sends two members to parliament; has two great fairs, *March 1*, and *September 1*; each of which last near a fortnight: nine markets for flesh, fish, poultry, vegetables, corn, cattle and leather; near 500 streets, squares, lanes and passages; 40 places of worship; five banks or companies of bankers, and four prisons. The length of the city and suburbs from the end of *Lawrence* hill east, to *Rownam* passage west, is more than three miles; and its breadth from *Stokes Croft* north, to *Bedminster* turn-

pike south, is two miles and a half, the whole seven or eight miles in circumference. It is the capital key and great mart of the western parts; after our august metropolis, it is the largest, most populous and flourishing place in the island, and one of the principal cities of *Europe*.

From hence I had thoughts of coasting the marshes or border of *Wales*, especially *South-Wales*, by tracing the rivers *Wye* and *Lug*, in *Monmouthshire* and *Herefordshire*; but changed my mind on occasion of the danger of the ferries over the *Severn*. In the meantime, I resolved to follow the course of this famous river, by which I should necessarily see the richest, most fertile, and most agreeable part of *England*, the banks of the *Thames* only excepted, from *Durham-Down*, which is a vast height above the river, and hangs as it were over it, giving a most romantic view, especially of ships passing, &c.

From *Bristol*, west, you enter the county of *Gloucester*; and, keeping the *Avon* in view, you see *Hungroad*, where, and at *King-Road*, the ships generally take their departure, as ours at *London* do from *Gravesend*, and where they notify their arrival, as ours for *London* do in the *Downs*. The first lies within the *Avon*, the last in the *Severn*. From *Kings-Weston* near this place is an exceeding fine view of *Hungroad* and the *Bristol* channel, a part of *Wales* on one side, *Somersetshire* on the other, and *Denny* island in the middle; below is the seat of Lord *Clifford*, and on the right the mouth of the *Severn*. Below *Hungroad* is *Pill*, a port town and convenient bay for shipping.

As we turn north towards *Gloucester*, we lose the sight of the *Avon*, and, in about two miles, exchange it for an open view of the *Severn Sea*, which you see on the west side, and which seems there as broad as the ocean; except that there are two small islands in it, and that looking N. W. you plainly discern

discern the coast of *South-Wales*; and particularly, a little nearer hand, the shore of *Monmouthshire*. Then, as you go on, the shores begin to draw towards one another, and the coasts to lie parallel; so that the *Severn* appears to be a plain river, or an *Æstuarium*, somewhat like the *Humber*, or as the *Thames* is at the *Nore*, being from four to five and six miles over; and is indeed a most raging and furious kind of sea. This is occasioned by those violent tides called the *Bore*, which flow here sometimes six or seven feet at once, rolling forward like a mighty wave, so that the stern of a vessel shall on a sudden be lifted up six or seven feet upon the water, when the head of it is fast aground. The same is likewise observable at *Bridgwater* and *Chepstow*.

After coasting the shore about four miles farther, the road being by the low salt-marshes kept at a distance from the river, we came to *Aust* ferry, so named from a little dirty village called *Aust*; near which you come to take boat.

This ferry lands you at *Beachly* in *Gloucestershire*; so that on the one side it is called *Aust Passage*, and on the other side *Beachly Passage*. From whence you go by land three little miles to *Chepstow*, a large port-town on the river *Wye*. But of that port I shall say more in its place.

Here is a good neat chapel, with an high tower at the west end, adorned with pinacles.

This place is memorable from a circumstance in the reign of King *Edward I.* who, being here, invited *Lewellin* Prince of *Wales*, who was on the other side, to come over and confer with him, and settle some matters in dispute between them: but the Prince refused, and the King thereupon crossed over to him, who, in a rapture of generosity, leaped into the water, to receive the King in his boat, telling him, his humility had conquered his pride, and his wisdom triumphed over his folly.

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Thornbury is a market-town, and hath a customary mayor and 12 aldermen; and was given by *William I.* to the famous *Fitz Hammon*. Here are the foundations of a large castle, designed, but never finished, by the Duke of *Buckingham*, in King *Henry VIII.*'s time. Here is a spacious church, built cathedral-wise, with an high and beautiful tower; and also a free-school and four alms-houses.

On the right lies *Wotton*, a pretty market-town, governed by a mayor elected annually at the court-leet. It is famous for its clothing trade. The church is large, and hath two wide ailes, and an high handsome tower, adorned with battlements and pinnacles. There are in it divers tombs, monuments, and inscriptions, chiefly for the family of *Berkely*. Here are a free-school and some charity-houses.

Directly north of this town lies *Dursley*, a good clothing and market-town, governed by a bailiff, and four constables; and has been formerly noted for sharp, over-reaching people; from whence arose a proverbial saying of a tricking man, *He is a man of Dursley*. The church is good, hath two ailes, and an handsome spire.

Turning north-west we came to *Berkeley*, a noted town, so called from *Berk*, a beech, and *Leas*, pasture. It is the largest parish in the county, and consists of rich meadow grounds; and above 30 parishes depend on this manor, for which a fee-farm rent was paid, in King *Henry II.*'s time, of 500 l. 17 s. 2 d. which shews the vast extent and value of this estate. It belongs to the present Earl of *Berkeley*, who is also Baron of *Dursley*. Adjoining to this town, is the strong castle of *Berkeley*, a magnificent though antique building, and the ancient seat of this noble family, from whence it derives its name as well as title, ever since the time of King *Henry II.* who gave it to *Robert Fitzharding*, who assumed the name of *Berkeley*. King *Edward II.* of *England*, as all our writers

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writers agree, was murdered in this castle ; as King *Richard II.* was in that of *Pontefract* in *Yorkshire* ; but I refer to our historians, and Mr. *Gray's* exquisite ode, for these horrid facts. They shew the apartments, where they say that King was a prisoner ; but they do not admit, that he was killed there. The place is rather ancient than pleasant or healthful, lying low, and near the water. Here is a large, spacious church, with an aisle on each side, and a chapel adjoining, which is the burial-place of the family, a neat vestry, and a strong high tower.

On the right of the road is *Stanley*, a little market-town, where was formerly a priory, the ruins whereof still appear. The church is built in the form of a cross, with a tower in the middle.

A noble improvement has been made in these parts ; for the Earl of *Berkeley* has finished a great bulwark at *Frampton upon Severn*, near this place, called *Hock-Crib*, the design of which is to enforce the river *Severn* by *Art's-Point*, into its former channel.

From *Frampton* the flowing tide runs in a straight line for about four miles in length westward, with such rapidity, that, on its reaching the foot of an hill, on the left side of the ancient forest of *Dean*, and turning round to the northward, it gathers into an head, that looks like an high weir across the river's breadth ; bearing every thing before it, till it comes to *Newnham's Nob* ; a natural bulwark, which turns the torrent so to the eastward, that, when it reaches the north of *Frampton*, the land between the two parts of the river is but about a mile in breadth.

Newnham is an ancient town-corporate, the sword of state being still preserved there, which King *John* gave them with their charter ; and the place is remarkable for its having been the first fortification that

was

was raised on the other side of the *Severn* against the *Welsh*; for its having been the manor by which the great place of high constable of *England* was held, down to the execution of *Edward Stafford* Duke of *Buckingham*, on the 17th of *May*, 1521, and for its having giving rise to the art of making glass in *England*; the remains of the first glass-houses that were erected in the kingdom being still to be seen here. The town consists of little more than one long street running north and south, and built upon the high shore of the *Severn*. It has a vale on the back of it, and is defended on that side with a great bank of earth, which makes a most agreeable terrace-walk.

The forest of *Dean* once contained 30,000 acres of land, being 20 miles long, and so full of wood, that it was very dangerous to travel through it. Its oak was famous for shipping, the glory of our own, and so much the envy of other nations, that the famous *Spanish Armada* had it in special charge to burn. The great number of iron forges near it has greatly lessened, though not consumed, the wood, which is still preserved with much care. It is subject to forest-laws; and the iron-miners have here a court also.

From hence to *Gloucester* is all a rich country, and a fine river, but narrower, as you go northward, till, a little short of *Gloucester*, it ceases to be navigable for ships of burden, but continues to be so, by large barges, above 100 miles farther, not reckoning the turnings and windings of the river; besides that it receives several large and navigable rivers.

Gloucester (called by the *Britons*, *Caer-gloyw*, i. e. the bright City; and, in imitation of it, *Clevum*, by the *Romans*) abounds much with crosses and statues of the Kings of *England*, and has an handsome prospect of steeples. In the civil wars, when it held out valiantly against King *Charles I.* and was then very strong,

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strong, it suffered much; for its 11 churches were then reduced to 5, and all its walls and works were demolished. The city is but indifferently built; but there is a large stone bridge over the *Severn*, the first next the sea.

The old Proverb, *As sure as God's at Gloucester* certainly alluded to the great number of churches and religious foundations here; for you can scarce walk past ten doors but somewhat of that sort occurs.

The cathedral is an old venerable pile, built by *Aldred*, Bishop of *Worcester*, afterwards Archbishop of *York*. The tower is considered as the most beautiful structure of the kind in *England*. The choir is finely vaulted at top, and the Ladies chapel, which extends to the east window, is very magnificent. On the north-side lies the unfortunate King *Edward II.* in an alabaster tomb. Out of the abundance of pious offerings to his remains, the religious built this choir; and the votaries to his shrine, for some time after his death, could hardly find room in the town.

Before the high altar, in the middle of the church lies the equally unfortunate Prince *Robert*, eldest son of *William I.* after a miserable life for many years before his death. But his monument remains, and his bones are at rest; which is more than can be said of the monument of his younger brother King *Henry I.* who, as the third brother *William Rufus* had done, robbed him of his right; and no traces of his monument are left at *Reading-Abbey*, where he was buried with his Queen. Duke *Robert* lies in a wooden tomb, with his coat of arms painted, and upon it his effigies in *Irish oak*, cross-legged. The famous *Strongbow*, who subdued *Ireland*, lies buried in the chapter-house.

The cloisters in this cathedral are exquisitely beautiful, in the stile of the chapel of *King's-College*, Cambridge.

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bridge. There are large remains, in the city, of abbey of black and white friars. A mile or two distant is *Robin Hood's* hill, as it is called, which affords now a pleasant walk for the citizens.

The inhabitants boast much of the antiquity of their first cathedral, which they pretend had bishops and preachers here *Anno* 189, the *first* cathedral, I say; for it has been, as reported, thrice destroyed by fire.

In the little isle of *Alney*, near this town, the famous single combat was fought between *Edmund Ironside* and *Canute the Dane*, for the whole kingdom, in sight of both their armies.

The city is governed by a mayor, 12 aldermen, and so many common-councilmen, as, with the mayor and aldermen, exceed not the number of 40, nor are fewer than 30. The aldermen are justices of the peace; and two sheriffs are annually chosen from the common council. It has also an high-steward (who is usually a nobleman), a recorder, and a town-clerk. They are allowed the highest marks of magistratical honour, scarlet gowns, the sword, and cap of maintenance, and four sergeants at mace. Here are 12 companies, the masters whereof attend the mayor on all public occasions in their gowns, and with streamers. It has a large quay and wharf on the river for trade, and a custom-house. Here is also a town hall, for the assizes, and public business, which they call the *Booth-hall*; and great part of the castle is still standing.

Gloucester was made a bishoprick by King *Henry VIII.* who erected the abbey-church into a cathedral, with a dean and six prebendaries.

The first protestant bishop of this church was that truly reverend divine, Dr. *John Hooper*, who was burnt to death in the cemetery of his own cathedral, in the reign of Queen *Mary I.*

The whispering-place in this cathedral formerly passed

passed for a kind of wonder among the vulgar; but since, experience has taught the reason of the thing, and there is now the like in the church of St. Paul London.

Here is great provision for the poor by hospitals, particularly *Bartholomew's Hospital* maintains 54 men and women, to whom belong a minister, physician and surgeon. And Sir *Thomas Rich*, Bart. a native of this place, gave 6000*l.* by will, for a *Blue-coat* hospital, wherein are educated 20 poor boys; and 10 poor men and women are maintained, and clothed annually. Besides these, and three more, there are many benefactions to encourage young tradesmen, and place out boys apprentices. And they have lately erected an infirmary here, after the laudable example of that of *Winchester*, &c.

The city has, in ancient times as well as later, given the titles of Earl and Duke to several of the Royal Family. And in 1764, the title of Duke of *Gloucester* was bestowed on his Royal Highness Prince *William Henry*.

Here are four fairs held annually, on *March 25*, *June 24*, *Sept. 28*, and *Nov. 17*. It is a county of itself, and sends two members to parliament.

From *Gloucester* we kept north eastward, and soon came to *Cheltenham*, a market-town, where is still a pretty good trade carried on in malt, but not so considerable as formerly. Here is a good church in the form of a cross, with ailes on each side, and a spire rising in the middle, noted for a good ring of bells. But what is more remarkable is, that the minister is to be nominated by, and must be a fellow of, *Jesus College, Oxon* (though the vicarage is but 40*l.* a year) but approved of by the Earl of *Gainsborough*; and he cannot hold it more than six years. Here are a free school, an hospital, and some other charities.

Cheltenham mineral waters are of the *Scarborough* kind, and equally disagreeable to the taste.

Follow-

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Following the road towards *Warwick* directly, we arrived at *Winchcomb*, a small market-town, situate in bottom, in the midst of good pasture and arable lands, but wants a good inn. The church is a good building, hath two ailes, a large chancel, and lofty tower adorned with battlements and pinnacles. It is a curacy worth no more than 10*l.* a year, though the impropriation is worth 300*l.* annually. Here was formerly a very rich mitred abbey, founded by *Offa* King of *Mercia*.

Here we turned from the road, and struck N. W. to *Tewksbury*, encompassed with four rivers; the *Avon* and *Carran* on the N. the *Severn* on the W. and the *Wylyate* on the S. It is governed by two bailiffs, and burgesses. It is a large and populous town, situate upon the *Warwickshire* river *Avon*, so called to distinguish it from the *Bristol Avon*, and others. The town is now remarkable for the quantity of malt made in it, as also for a great manufacture of cotton stockings; as are also *Campden* in this county, and *Perthore* in *Worcestershire*.

The great old church at *Tewksbury* may be called one of the largest churches in *England*, that is not collegiate or cathedral. It is very high, has two spacious ailes, a stately tower, and a large chancel. The communion-table is one entire marble stone, near 14 feet long, and three and a half broad.

The town is famous for the decisive battle fought between the houses of *Lancaster* and *York*, in the reign of King *Edward IV.* of the latter house, who was conqueror. It sends two members to parliament.

Gloucestershire must not be passed over, without some account of a pleasant and fruitful vale, which crosses part of the county, from east to west, on that side of the *Cotswold*, through which runs a river called *Stroudwater*, famous for dyeing the cloths made in its neighbourhood, of the most beautiful scarlet.

Here

Here I saw two pieces of broad cloth made, one scarlet, the other crimson in grain, which were sent as presents, the one to King *George I.* while elector and the other to his late Majesty, which were very graciously accepted. The cloth was valued at 45*s.* per yard, and was well worth it, as I was informed.

The clothiers lie all along the banks of this river for near 20 miles, and in the town of *Stroud*, which lies in the middle of it, as also at *Painswick*. This river makes its way to the *Severn*, about ten miles below *Gloucester*.

A navigable canal from the town of *Stroud* to the river *Severn* at *Framiload*, is now carrying on with great spirit.

As *Tewksbury* lies on the borders of *Worcestershire*, we soon entered that county, and came to *Upton*, an ancient market-town of some note upon the *Severn*, over which it has a good bridge. *Roman* coins are frequently dug up here.

On the left, westward of this town, and which part this county from that of *Hereford*, are *Malvern Hills*, which consist of large mountains, prodigiously high and lofty, gradually rising one above another for about seven miles together. On these hills are two villages, called *Great Malvern* and *Little Malvern*, at the distance of about two miles from each other, each having had formerly an abbey of *Benedictines*, the last lying in a dismal cavity between the hills. On the very top of these hills may be seen the ruins of a prodigious ditch, which *Gilbert* Earl of *Gloucester* dug, to separate his possessions from those of the church of *Hereford*. On these hills are two medicinal springs, called *Holy Wells*: one is good for the eyes and livers, and the other for cancers.

From *Upton* we travelled N. E. and came to *Perthshire*, which lies on the low *London* road to *Worcester*: it is said to be so called from the great number

pear-trees, which thrive plentifully here. It is a pleasant market-town lying on the *Avon*, and famous for the stocking-trade. It has about 300 houses, and two parish-churches.

Eastward of this town stands *Evesham*, a borough-town, situate on a gentle ascent from the same river, over which it hath a bridge of seven stately arches. It is an ancient mayor-town, and has the privilege to try felons. It is memorable for the decisive battle, wherein *Simon Montfort* and the barons were defeated by Prince *Edward*, afterwards King *Edward I.* who thereby released his father out of captivity. Here are two churches, with small spire steeples; but neither has any bells, which have been removed to a famous tower built by abbot *Litchfield* which stands near these churches. This borough returns two members to parliament. Here are a grammar-school, and a charity-school.

All around this town lies that fruitful and plentiful country, called from this place, *The Vale of Evesham*, which runs all along the banks of the *Avon*, from *Newbury* to *Pershore*, and to *Stratford upon Avon*, in the south part of *Warwickshire*; which river is so far navigable.

The parish-church of *Stratford* is very old. In it we saw the monument of the inimitable *Shakespeare*, whose dramatic performances set him at the head of the *British* theatre, and will preserve his memory all time shall be no more.

I should do an injury to the memory of this immortal bard, were I here to omit transcribing a few particulars I received from the hands of an ingenious and inquisitive traveller, who will see in this, and some other parts of the *Tour*, that I have not been unkindful of his favours.

“I arrived (says this gentleman) in the month of *July* 1777, at the *White Lion*, in *Stratford upon Avon*. This is the inn represented in the entertainment

ment of *The Jubilee* : in the yard is a sign of *Shakespeare*, and under it *Milton's* two lines :

*Here sweetest Shakespeare, Fancy's child;
Warbled his native wood-notes wild.*

“ Three doors from this inn is the house in which *Shakespeare* was born, and here is shewn his chair, in which he sat in the chimney corner : it has been pretty much cut by different visitors, who have been desirous of preserving a relict of something belonging to the immortal bard. The people who live in the house say, they are his next relations. They are poor, as indeed are eleven in twelve of the inhabitants. There is a town-house, lately rebuilt, in which is a large room, called *Shakespeare's Hall*. It is adorned with two fine paintings, one of *Shakespeare*, the other of *Mr. Garrick*. On the outside, in a niche, is a statue of *Shakespeare*, and over it :

*Take him for all in all,
We ne'er shall look upon his like again.*

“ And under it, ‘ The corporation and inhabitants of *Stratford*, assisted by the munificent contributions of the noblemen and gentlemen in the neighbourhood, rebuilt this edifice in 1768 : the statue of *Shakespeare*, and his picture within, were given by *David Garrick, Esq.*’

“ In the chancel of the old church, which is in that part of the town called *Old Stratford*, is the grave and monument of *Shakespeare*. The monument is his bust in marble on the wall, put up by his wife, with this inscription :

*Stay, passenger, why goest thou so fast ?
Read, if thou canst, whom envious death has plac'd*
With-

Within this monument, SHAKESPEARE, with whom Quick Nature died; whose name doth deck this tomb Far more than cost, fith all that he hath writ Leaves living art, but page to serve his wit.

Obiit A. D. 1616, ætat. 53, die 23 April.

Near the monument is his grave, with the well-known epitaph of,

*Good friend, for Jesus' sake, forbear
To move the dust that resteth here.
Blest be the man that spares these stones;
And curst be he that moves my bones!*

"On his left hand lies his wife, with this inscription on her stone: Here lieth interred the body of Anne, the wife of William Shakespeare, who departed this life, A. D. 1663; aged 67.

"On his right side, lie his first daughter and grandson; next to them, his son-in-law, John Hall, apothecary; and next, his daughter Susannah, (Hall's wife.)

"At the side of the chancel is a charnel house, almost filled with human bones, skulls, &c. The guide said, that Shakespeare was so much affected by his charnel house, that he wrote the epitaph, (*Good friend, &c.*) for himself, to prevent his bones being thrown into it. This chancel was formerly the chancel of the college, which stands near the church, and which is now a private house."

Over the Avon at Stratford is a fine stone bridge of 4 arches, with a long causeway at the west-end of it, walled on both sides. Stratford is governed by a mayor, recorder, a high-steward, 12 aldermen, of whom two are justices of the peace, and 12 capital burgesses. It has besides the parish-church, a chapel of ease, a free grammar-school, and an alms-house, founded by Edward VI.

The navigation of this river *Avon* is an exceeding advantage to all this part of the county, and also to the commerce of the city of *Bristol*. For by this river they drive a very great trade for sugar, oil, wine, tobacco, iron, lead, and, in a word, all heavy goods, which are usually carried by water almost as far as *Warwick*; and, in return, the corn and especially cheese, are carried back from *Gloucestershire* and *Warwickshire* to *Bristol*; for *Gloucestershire* cheese is excellent of the kind, and this county drives a great trade in it.

This vale extending itself in *Warwickshire*, and under the ridge of little mountains, called *Edge-hill*, is there called *The Vale of Red-horse*. All the grounds put together, make a most pleasant corn country, especially remarkable for the goodness of the air, and fertility of the soil.

Not far from *Stratford*, on the borders of the county of *Worcester*, is *Alcester*, a market-town, much frequented by dealers in corn: it is of great antiquity, as appears by old foundations of buildings made of *Roman* brick, and gold, silver, and brass coins found here. The old *Roman* way, called *Ikening street*, passes through the town.

About a mile from this place is *Ragley*, the seat of the Earl of *Hertford*, remarkable for its fine hall, which is a double cube of forty feet. The rest of the house, which has a very heavy appearance, by no means answers in size or decoration to the superb room already mentioned.

From *Tewksbury*, north, it is 12 miles to *Worcester* along the banks of the *Severn*, where I was delighted with the hedge-rows, lined all the way with apple and pear-trees, full of fruit, and those so common that any passengers, as they travel the road, may gather and eat what they please. Here also, as we do as in *Gloucestershire*, you meet with cyder in the public

public-houses, sold as beer and ale are in other parts of England, and as cheap.

On the other side of the *Severn*, near *Droitwich*, at *Whitley-Court*, five miles from *Beudley*, and seven from *Worcester*, the late Lord *Foley* had a seat finely furnished, situate in a large park; he built also a chapel near it, esteemed a very curious piece of architecture.

Worcester, the *Branovium* of the Romans, seems to have been built by them to curb the *Silures* on the other side of the *Severn*; and in imitation of the Roman name, the Britons called it *Caer Wrangon*. It is situated in a valley on the *Severn*, which, though generally rapid elsewhere, glides on here very gently. This city was burnt in 1041, by King *Hardicanute*, the inhabitants having killed his tax-gatherers. In 1080, *Roger de Montgomery* Earl of *Shrewsbury*, burnt the suburbs, and attacked the city; but the citizens defended themselves with so much gallantry, that they repulsed their enemies with a terrible slaughter. In 1113, it was almost destroyed by an accidental fire, the castle entirely consumed, and the roof of the cathedral damaged. In 1202, it was again burnt. It has suffered in all the civil wars; but the weights which it has been pressed, have only conduced to mend it into form, and raise it, like the palm-tree, to its present beauty and stateliness: for it is a large, populous, well-built city, and one of the best paved in England. The *Foregate-street* is the most regular that can be seen out of *London*. The *Guildhall* is a fine building; but the statues on the outside disgrace it.

There is a good old stone bridge over the *Severn*, which stands exceeding high from the surface of the water; but as the stream of the *Severn* is contracted here by the buildings on either side, there is evident occasion sometimes for the height of the bridge, the waters rising to an incredible degree in the winter-time. The bridge consists of six arches; and the

banks of the *Severn* look very beautiful on each side being enriched with pleasant meadows.

The commandery, formerly belonging to St. *John of Jerusalem*, is a fine old house of timber, in the form of a court. The hall, roofed with *Irish oak* makes one side of it, built for the reception of pilgrims. The windows are adorned with imagery and coats armorial. It stands just without the south gate of the city in the *London road*, where the heat of the famous battle happened between King *Charles I.* and *Oliver Cromwell*; and they frequently find bones of the slain, in digging in the garden. Above in the park is to be seen a great work of four bastions called *The Royal Mount*, whence a *Vallum* and ditch run both ways to encompass this side of the city. Here it is probable, the storm began, when the Royalists were driven back into the city with great slaughter; and the King escaped being made a prisoner in the narrow street at this gate, by a loaded cart of hay purposely overthrown, which gave him time to retire at the opposite gate to *Boscobel*, or *Whinladies*.

A mile and half above the south gate, on the top of the hill, is the celebrated *Perrywood*, where *Cromwell's* army lay, and which affords a fine prospect over the county.

Worcester was made an episcopal see by *Ethelbert* King of the *Mercians*, who founded the cathedral which was again built by St. *Wulstan*, Bishop of the diocese, about 1084, but enlarged and improved by his successors, though the body of it makes no extraordinary appearance on the outside. The tower is low, without any spire, only four very small pinnacles on the corners; and yet it has some little beauty in it, more than the church itself. The upper part has some images in it, but decayed by time. *Boscelin* the first Bishop, was consecrated in 680. In it is buried the once restless King *John*; not where

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monument now stands, which is in the choir before the high altar, but under a little stone before the altar of the eastermost wall of the church. On each side of him, on the ground, lie the effigies of the two Bishops, his chief saints, *Wulstan* and *Oswald*, from whose neighbourhood he hoped to be safe. The image of the King probably lay here also upon the ground, now elevated upon a tomb in the said choir.

On the south-side of the high altar is a large and handsome stone chapel over the monument of prince *Arthur*, eldest son of *Henry VII.* who died at *Ludlow*, his tomb-stone specifies, *Anno 1502*, and whose sister *Catharine*, infant of *Spain*, his brother *Henry VIII.* marrying, after 20 years wedlock, was divorced from, to make way for *Anna Bolen*. The choir of this chapel is exquisite workmanship; but suffered much in the civil wars.

Here is also, among other noted monuments, one for that famous Countess of *Salisbury*, who, dancing before *Edward III.* in his great hall at *Windsor*, dropped her garter; which the King taking up, honoured so much (as the idle story goes) as to make it the denominating ensign of the most noble order of the *Garter*: but this I have refuted under my account of *Windsor*; tho', that the Countess might drop her garter, and that the King might gallantly wear it during the entertainment, instead of his garter of the order, is not improbable. But the motto was given as an allusion to the order of knighthood, and not of the garter.

The monument is fine, and there are several angels cut in stone about it, strewing garters over the tomb, which seems a sufficient proof of the fact.

There are several other ancient monuments in this church.

The cloisters are very perfect, and the chapter-house is large, supported, as to its arched roof, by

one umbilical pillar. It is now become a library, is well furnished, and has many ancient manuscripts.

There is a large old gate-house standing, and near it the castle, with a very high artificial mount or keep, nigh the river.

This city is governed by a mayor and six aldermen. It has two chamberlains, a recorder, a town-clerk, two coroners, a sword-bearer, four serjeants at mace, and a sheriff; being, like *Gloucester*, a county of itself, divided into seven wards, in which are 12 parish-churches.

This city has of late years become the resort of many genteel wealthy families, and is esteemed one of the politest towns in *England*. Its clothing trade, of which it once possessed a considerable share, is dwindled to nothing. At present, the gloving business seems to be the chief; though there is no inconsiderable manufactory of carpets. The *Worcester* china, though it has not answered in any great degree to the proprietors, has also enlivened the trade of this city. From its situation on the river *Severn*, it might command all the trade between the adjoining counties and *Bristol*; but, by some means or other, the small town of *Bewdley* has almost entirely engrossed it.

It is adorned by a capacious and beautiful structure, called *The public Work-house*; in which children of both sexes are trained up to the knowledge of trade, and the practice of religion and virtue; by whose labour also the aged and decrepit are supported.

Opposite to this work-house, *Robert Berkley*, of *Spetchley*, Esq; erected a fine hospital for twelve poor men, and gave 2000 *l.* to build it, and 4000 *l.* to endow it.

Here are, besides, three grammar-schools, and seven alms-houses, all liberally endowed; and twelve parish-churches. *St. Nicholas's* church, in this city,

has been rebuilt, and is a neat and commodious edifice.

The market-days are *Wednesday*, *Friday*, and *Saturday*. Every *Saturday* is kept a very considerable hop-market. The fairs are held on the *Saturday* before *Palm-Sunday*, the assumption of the blessed *Virgin*, and her nativity. *Worcester* sends two members to parliament.

About three miles from this place is *Westwood*, the ancient and magnificent seat and park of Sir *Herbert Packington*, Bart. This place is supposed to be the scene of Mr. *Addison*'s descriptions in his matchless history of Sir *Roger de Coverley*.

At *Hartlebury*, near *Worcester*, is a palace, called *Hartlebury-castle*, belonging to the bishops of that see. It was built originally in the reign of *Henry III.* but demolished in the civil wars in the reign of *Charles I.* It was afterwards rebuilt at the expence of the bishops of *Worcester*, and is now a beautiful seat.

From *Worcester* I made some excursions, to visit the towns and country northward; and first came to *Droitwich*, a corporate bailiwick and borough-town, which has two churches, and is pretty wealthy. It is famous for excellent white salt, which is made here from the spring equinox to that of autumn; not but that they may make salt here all the year long, but they fear to over-stock the market. It appears, by the *Doomsday-book*, they made salt here before the conquest. The salt springs are very good, and productive of plenty of brine. The town lies on the river *Salwarp*, and sends two members to parliament.

Proceeding directly on, in the road, we arrived at *Broomsgrove*, a large bailiwick-town, likewise on the river *Salwarp*, where the linen clothing-trade is pretty briskly carried on. It is the centre of four

roads: One leads to *Coventry* and *Leicester*; another to *Warwick*, and so to *London*; a third to *Worcester* and the fourth to *Shrewsbury*.

Between *Worcester* and *Spetchley* was *St. Oswald's* hospital, demolished in the reign of Queen *Elizabeth*. But *Dr. Fell*, bishop of *Oxford*, after the Restoration, recovered much of the possession, and erected a fine and large hospital, which comfortably maintains 12 poor men.

Kidderminster is a town in this county of *Worcester*, very considerable for its woollen trade, particularly the weaving of what they call *linsey-woolsey*, together with carpets, after the manner of those made at *Wilton* in *Wiltshire*, in which the inhabitants are almost wholly employed. It is a large, but yet compact and populous town, situated on the *Stour*, and governed by a bailiff, 12 capital burgesses, 25 common-councilmen, &c. In its church is a cross-legged monument of *Sir Thomas Acton*.

Stourbridge is also situated upon the river *Stour*, over which it has a very good bridge; whence its name. This town deals greatly in glass manufacture, and in iron-works of all sorts; and is much improved of late years, both in houses and inhabitants. At *Swinford*, near *Stourbridge*, is a noble hospital for 60 boys, erected by the first founder of the noble family of *Foley*, which deserves the attention of a traveller, and the praise of all men. At *Stourbridge* also fine stone pots are made for glass-makers to melt their metal in, also crucibles, &c. the clay of which these things are made, being almost peculiar to the place.

Near this town is *Hales-Owen*, and on our arrival there, we walked up to the *Leasowes*: But here I should intimate, that as the late *Mr. Doddsley* gave a particular account of these grounds in so popular a book as *Shenstone's* works, I shall only minute a few

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circumstances, either omitted in that account, or finished since it was written *.

The cascade, viewed from the root-house, inscribed to the Earl of *Stamford*, is astonishingly romantic: A large space of ground at your feet, for above 150 yards, is thickly covered with the stems of fine oaks, &c. A fall of water at the further end of this ground first breaks to your view, and then forms twenty more before it reaches you, all broken into distinct sheets, wildly irregular, by the interweaving and crossing stems of the trees above. Their branches and leaves form a fine thick canopy of shade, which most gloriously sets off the sheets of water, which here and there meet the sun-beams, and sparkle in the eye. This intermixture of wood and water is amazingly fine.

From the bench, inscribed,

To all friends round the Wrekin,

you look down upon a very beautiful variety of unequal ground, all waving cultivated inclosures, finely scattered with houses, villages, &c. the pools appearing in broken sheets among the wood in the valley. At the bottom of the slope is a kind of river; but the end is badly hid with a little trifling *Chinese* bridge. However, from the spot, which Mr. *Dodley* calls a cavity in a small thicket filled with trees, the serpentine stream has a better effect.

After this, we next meet with a green bench, with this inscription:

————— *While Nature here
Wantons as in her prime, and plays at will
Her virgin fancies.*

* *Young's Six Months Tour through the North of England*, vol. iii. p. 279. &c.

It is well placed, commanding a sweet variety of wood, water, and waves of cultivated inclosures.

The view from *Thompson's* seat is exquisite and inimitable, sweetly varied, and the water admirably managed: In a word, it is a little seat of enchantment.

From *Hales Owen* we took the road to *Hagley*, the seat of Lord *Lyttelton*. The house is an excellent living one: A well-designed mean between the vast piles raised for magnificence, and those smaller ones, in which convenience is alone considered. It contains some noble apartments, enriched with an elegant collection of statues, busts, and paintings, by the best masters; but what are most worthy of notice are the grounds, which the late Lord *Lyttelton* disposed with the utmost taste.

The walk from the house leads through a wood, by the side of a purling stream, which meanders over grafs from out of a dark hollow. You pass a gush of water, which falls into it, and winding up the hill, turn to the side of another brook, which gurgles through a rocky hollow. Another gushing fall, over bits of rocks, attracts your notice; which passing, you come to the Prince of *Wales's* statue. This spot commands a fine view of the distant country over the house.

Winding from hence through the wood, you look to the left upon distant grounds, until you come to a seat inscribed to *Thompson* *.

From hence you look down on a fine lawn, and, in front, upon a noble bank of hanging wood, in which appears a temple. To the left, is a distant view of *Malvern* hills.

Passing a well, called after the patriarch, from which you have a distinct view of a hill over the

* On this bench is an inscription, as well as on several others, which brevity obliges us here to omit.

wood, you enter a grove of oaks, in which you catch a glance of the castle through the trees, on the top of the hill, beautifully rising out of a bank of wood.

We next come to an *Ionic* rotunda, inclosed in a beautiful amphitheatre of wood. It looks down upon a hollow piece of water in a grove, at the end of which is a *Palladian* bridge. The scene is pleasing. From hence the path winds through a fine wood of oaks, in which is a bench, by the side of a trickling rill. The path then leads by the stream, and under the trees, to a fine open lawn inclosed by wood: At one end is an urn inscribed to *Pope*.

Passing two benches, and a slight gush of water, you rise to the ruined castle; from the top of which is a very beautiful view, down upon the woods, lawns, slopes, &c. and a prodigious extensive prospect over the country. *Worcester*, *Dudley*, the *Clee* hills, are a part of the scene: the *Wrekin*, at forty miles, and, it is said, *Radnor-tump*, at eighty miles distance.

Following the path, you pass a triangular water, (the meaning of which I do not understand,) and walk down under the shade of oaks, by the side of a winding woody hollow, to the seat of *Contemplation*. The view is only down into the hollow among the trees.

We come next to the hermitage, which looks down on a piece of water, in the hollow, thickly shaded with tall trees, over which is a fine view of distant country; but this water is somewhat too regular.

Winding down, you come to a root-cave by the water's edge—a retired spot; and at the other end of the pond is a cave of grotto work.

Coming out of the grove, and rising the hill, you command to the left, as you move, a most beautiful view of the country, a noble sweep of inclosures of charming verdure, to a bench, from which you

look into the vale on the house at your feet, with a sweet little stream serpentining by it. You look down on lawns, *gay smiling with eternal green*, thinly scattered with trees; on one side of which is the house, and around the whole a vast range of inclosures. To the right you catch a most beautiful small green hill, with a clump of trees upon it. This view is noble indeed!

Turning to the right into a grove, you presently come to a most delicious scene. At your feet is spread forth a lawn of the finest verdure, a cool sequestered hollow, surrounded with thick wood; above which, in front, you catch *Thompson's* seat, in the very spot of elegance itself. On a sweet little green hill, the top of which just shews itself above the trees, half discloses the temple almost embosomed in wood. A little to the left of it, and higher, is the *Grecian* portico, finely backed with a spreading grove. Over that, on a noble sweep of irregular hill, rises the obelisk, backed with a vast range of woods, in the grandest stile: The variety of ground fine, and the whole of it ornamented with surprising taste, as well as magnificence. A better assemblage of unconnected objects, managed most skilfully to form one whole, can scarcely be imagined.

Leaving this noble scene, the path brings you to a bench under a very fine oak, which looks down, as before, on the hollow lawn. In front you view the green hill, with the clump of trees on it, which here appears exquisitely beautiful. On one side of it, distant water is seen most picturesquely among the trees, and over all the *Wrekin* rears his venerable head.

Pursuing the walk through the grove, you come to the seat inscribed *Quieti & Musis*, which commands very elegant scenes. You look down a green hollow, surrounded by fine oaks; to the right, on water through the trees. Rising above this lower scene,

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scene, you look to the left upon *Thompson's* seat, thickly backed, and surrounded with wood; above it, the obelisk appears very noble. To the right, a Gothic house (the parsonage) is seen obscurely among the trees, and inclosures broken by wood rising one above the other.

You then come to a bench under a stately oak, commanding a lawn. To the right you see *Pope's* urn, and a rising hill, crowned with a clump of trees; and following the path, it brings you to a very fine dell arched with wood, and a great variety of water at your feet. On the right, close to you, a spring gushes out of the ground on rock work, and falls into a stream in the hollow. Further on, another rill murmurs over broken rocks, and uniting with the same stream, it falls again, and winds away most beautifully among the woods.

Crossing the dell, you rise to another seat, the stream winding in the hollow beneath, and the whole under the shade of large oaks. To the right you catch an urn, dedicated to the memory of *William Shenstone, Esq;* and look back upon the *Ionic* rotunda.

Passing on, we came to a bench by the side of the winding stream, thickly covered with wood; and entering a grove almost impervious to the sun, met with a bench around a vast oak, that commands a fine variety of scenery. To the right you look upon the river, and rising among the wood, the rotunda strikes your eye—the situation admirable. To the left you command the *Palladian* bridge, having a fresh view of the water, in a hollow all overhung with wood. Behind, on a fine hill, is the seat *Quieti & Musis*.

Returning through the grove, you pass several benches, and arrive at one surrounded by the most bewitching scenes. This spot, a moss-seat, is totally sequestered, and might almost be called the paradise

radise for contemplation to indulge in. The whole is over-arched with tall spreading trees, and is surrounded with banks of shrubby wood, of moss and ivy. The eye cannot wander from the beautiful in search of the sublime, nor will one sigh ever be heard on this bank for distant prospect. In front you look upon a cascade, breaking from out of a perpendicular bank of ivy, and presenting to the eye a beautiful fall of transparent water, which glitters in this dark grove—the effect amazingly fine. It takes a natural course, and breaking over a ground of rock, moss, and ivy, loses itself among the shrubs at your feet. To the right is a sweet little watery cave of rock, in which is a small statue of *Venus*. The rest of the scene is a fine dark shade of wood.

Winding up the side of the hill, you look down on a romantic irriguous woody valley, hearing the noise of falling water, but seeing none. Coming to a bench, you just look down to the right on a gushing stream half covered with trees. In front, *Venus* appears embosomed in a hollow of wood.

Winding round the sides of the river, you come to the *Palladian* bridge; a porticoed temple of the *Ionic* order—the view admirably fine. You here look full upon a beautiful cascade, broken into two sheets by a rock, which falls into the water over which the bridge is thrown. A little above this a piece of wild ground is half seen, and further on a lawn, at the end of a green swelling hill, upon which stands the rotunda. The line of view to these objects is through a thick tall wood, which gives a solemn brownness to the whole scene, and is very noble.

Leaving this exquisite spot, you turn through a grove by several slight water-falls, and come out not far from the house.

Though this enchanting scene has already carried me beyond the bounds prescribed to a single article in this work, yet I cannot quit the beauties of *Hagley*, without

without

without adding, The natural variety is great, and the advantage of being so nobly cloathed with venerable oaks, peculiarly fortunate; but Art has added fresh lustre to every feature of Nature, and created others, which display a pregnant invention, and a pure and correct taste. Waters that are trifling in themselves, are thrown into appearances that strike and delight the mind, and exhibited in such an amazing variety, that one would be tempted at first to think the source vastly more considerable than in reality it is. Let me further add, that the buildings have an equal variety, are all in a most just taste, and placed with the utmost judgment, both for commanding the most beautiful scenes, and also for assisting in forming them.

A little below *Worcester*, westward, the *Severn* receives a river of a long deep course, which comes from *Shropshire*, called the *Teme*, on which stands a small market-town, called *Tenbury*, but of little note. I passed this river formerly in my way to *Ludlow*, at *Breadway*, a little village; but now I went by the way of *Bewdley*, on the side of *Shropshire*.

This part of the county, and all the county of *Salop*, is filled with fine seats of the nobility and gentry, which we have not room to describe. But although the number of seats is not diminished in these two counties, yet many of the parks have been laid open, and converted into farms; whereby the owners have greatly enlarged their estates, especially where the land was good. The number of inclosed parks in *Salop*, some years ago, was upwards of an hundred.

Bewdley, or *Beau-lieu*, i. e. *fine Place*, said to be so called from its pleasant and delightful situation upon the side of an hill declining to the *Severn*, is a small borough and bailiff market-town, well supplied with corn, malt, leather, and caps, which the Dutch seamen buy, called *Monmouth Caps*, and noted for

for the palace which King *Henry VII.* built here for his son Prince *Arthur*, called *Tickenhall*. It had a very fine park about it, which, with the house, was destroyed by the enthusiasts in the civil war. The town sends one member to parliament.

The ends of the hills towards the rivers are generally rocks; and *Bluckston-hill* has an hermitage cut out of it, with a chapel, and several apartments. Near it is a pretty rock upon the edge of the water, covered with oaks, and many curious plants.

Not far from *Cherbury-Park* is the parish of *Reck*, where the famous *Augustine's* oak stood, so called from a conference held under it by *Augustine*, and the *British* bishops, about the celebration of *Easter*, and preaching God's word, and administering baptism after the rites of the church of *Rome*, which the *British* bishops refused. This fact is memorable, as it shews, that all our Christianity did not come originally from *St. Augustine* and the papalists.

I thought to have returned to *Worcester*, and so proceeded to *Herefordshire*, and down to *Monmouth*, and so round to the coast of *Wales*. But being desirous to take in, first, the south part of *Shropshire*, I followed the *Severn* up north, and came to *Bridgnorth*, a very ancient and noted borough-town, said to be built by Queen *Æthelfleda*, in the time of the heptarchy. The charter given by King *John* mentions a former by King *Henry II.* It has endured several sieges, in one of which *Hubert de St. Clare* voluntarily received an arrow in his breast, which was levelled at his sovereign King *Henry II.* It was almost destroyed by fire, in its defence against Sir *Lewis Kirke*, an officer in the parliament army. Upon the west bank of the *Severn* are the remains of an ancient and magnificent convent of *Franciscans*, under which are several caverns, running a great length.

Bridgnorth

Bridgnorth consists of two towns, the high and the low, which are separated by the *Severn*, but united by a stone bridge of seven arches, which hath a gate and gate-house. The situation is pleasant, the air healthy, the prospect delightful, and commodious for trade. It hath been fortified with walls, and a castle built by *Robert de Belesme*, which are now in ruins; and the area in the last is converted to a fine bowling-green. The streets are well paved. Part of the *Cowgate-street* is a rock rising perpendicularly, where are several tenements, which have an agreeable, though grotesque appearance. It is governed by two bailiffs chosen annually. It is noted for good gun-makers, and for its stocking manufacture. It has a well-replenished market on *Saturday*, and four fairs: *Thursday* before *Shrove-Tuesday*, for cattle, hogs, cheese, and cloth; *June 30*, and *August 7*, for the same; and *October 29*, for cattle, salt, butter, and cheese. Here are two churches in the high town, *St. Mary Magdalen's*, made a free chapel, and exempted from episcopal jurisdiction, by King *John*; and *St. Leonard's*, which was burnt in the civil commotions in the reign of King *Charles*, and lately rebuilt by the inhabitants; (but the college, which met with the same fate, was never restored) and though the parishes are large, and the town populous, they are very indifferently endowed, and so is the free-school, which has only 24 *l. per annum*. There is an hollow way cut through the rock, leading from the high town to the bridge, of the depth of 20 feet, in some parts of it; and likewise many vaults and dwellings are hewn out of the rock. The town sends two members to parliament. There is a walk round the castle, kept in good order, which commands a prospect of the low town, the river, and the common, called *Morse*, where the maces are kept. There is also a pleasant walk on *Morse*, which affords a charming view of the adjacent

cent country. The town is supplied with water from the river, which is forced up the hill into a reservoir, and thence distributed to all parts of the town.

From hence we advanced in the direct road to *Shrewsbury*, and came to *Great Wenlock*, an ancient incorporated town, governed by a bailiff and burgesses; which returns two members to parliament.

Leaving *Shrewsbury* for my observation at my return from *Wales* through *Cheshire*, we turned short here, and fell down southward to *Ludlow*.

On the extremity of this county, in a kind of promontory, which runs in between *Montgomeryshire* and *Radnorshire*, upon the *Clun*, lies

Bishops-Castle, a small market, bailiwick, and borough-town, which sends two members to parliament: And not very far from it, just at the entrance into *Montgomeryshire*, is a noted place called *Bishopsmott*, where is an acre of ground, surrounded with an intrenchment. The *Clun* meets the *Teme* at *Ludlow*, and both, united, run to *Clebury*, a small town on the borders of *Worcestershire*, where it falls into the *Severn*.

The castle of *Ludlow* shews plainly in its decay, what it was in its flourishing state: It is the palace of the Prince of *Wales*, in right of his principality.

Its situation is indeed beautiful; there is a most spacious plain or lawn in its front, which formerly continued near two miles; but much of it is now inclosed. The country round it is exceeding pleasant, fertile, populous, and the soil rich; nothing can be added by nature, to make it a place fit for a royal palace. It is built in the north-west angle of the town upon a rock, commanding a delightful prospect northwards; and on the west is shaded by a lofty hill, and washed by the river. The battlements are of great height and thickness, with towers at convenient distances. That half which is within the walls

walls of the town is secured with a deep ditch; the other is founded on a solid rock. A chapel here has abundance of coats of arms upon the pannels, as has the hall, together with lances, spears, fire-locks, and old armour. This castle was built by *Roger de Montgomery*, in the time of *William the Conqueror*.

The town of *Ludlow* is likewise fortified with walls, through which are seven gates. It is well built, and a place of good trade, and in a thriving state, notwithstanding the ruinous condition of the castle, and the abolishing of the court held there for the marches. It stands on the edge of the two counties, *Shropshire* and *Worcestershire*, but is itself in the first.

On the south side of the town runs the *Teme*, over which is a good bridge. The river has several dams across it, in the nature of cataraacts, whereby abundance of mills are turned, and great is the roar of the superfluous waters.

Ludlow has a very good church, with an handsome tower, and a pleasing ring of six bells. The windows are full of painted glafs, pretty entire.

There are some old monuments of the lords prebendaries, &c. and an inscription upon the north wall of the choir, relating to Prince *Arthur*, eldest brother to King *Henry VIII.* who died here; and in this spot his bowels were deposited. It is said, that his heart was taken up some time ago in a leaden box.

In an eastern angle of the choir is a closet, anciently called *The Godhouse*, where the priests secured their consecrated utensils. The window is strongly barred on the outside. The church is dedicated to *St. Laurence*; and in the market-place is a cistern or conduit, on the top of which is a long stone cross, bearing a nich, in which is the image of that saint.

West of the church was a college, now converted into a private house. There was a rich priory out of the town, on the north side of which are but few ruins

ruins to be seen, except a small church, which formerly belonged to it. The *Welsh* call this town *Lys y Tywysog*, i. e. *The Prince's Court*. Mr. *Camden* calls the river *Teme* the *Temd*, and another river, which joins it just at this town, the *Corve*; whence the rich flat country below the town is called *Corvesdale*. It is governed by two bailiffs, 12 aldermen, a recorder, 25 common-council-men, and other inferior officers, and has the particular privilege of trying and executing criminals. It has an alms-house for 30 poor people; and sends two members to parliament.

King *Henry VIII.* established here the court of the president and council of the marches, before-mentioned; and all causes of *nisi prius*, or of civil right, were tried here, before the lord president and council; but this court, being grown a great grievance to the public, was entirely taken away by act of parliament, in the first year of King *William* and Queen *Mary*.

About four miles from hence is *Oakley Park*, late the seat of the Earl of *Powis*, and sold by him to Lord *Clive*.

From *Ludlow* we took our course still due south to *Lemster*, or *Leominster*, a large market-town on the river *Lug*, over which it hath several bridges. It is governed by an high-steward, a bailiff, a recorder, 12 capital burghesses, &c. and returns two members to parliament. The church, which is large, has been in a manner rebuilt, and is now very beautiful. This town is noted for its fine wool, and the best wheat, and consequently the finest bread; and also for the best barley; whence *Lemster bread*, and *Weobly ale*, are become a proverbial saying.

It is a town of brisk trade in wool, hat-making, leather, &c. and lies in a valley exceedingly luxuriant. Three rivers of a very swift current go through

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the town, besides others very near. The inhabitants make great use of these by mills, and other machinery, in the various branches of their trade. There are some poor remains of the priory, chiefly a little chapel, which probably belonged to the prior's family. Underneath it runs a pretty rivulet, which used to grind his corn, now converted to a fulling-mill. Near it are very large ponds for fish.

At *Lemster* there is an alms-house, founded by the widow of a man who gave away the best part of his effects in his lifetime. In a nich over the entrance is his figure, holding up an hatchet, with these words under :

*Let him that gives his goods before he is dead,
Take this hatchet, and cut off his head.*

Pembridge, *Weobly*, and *Kynetton*, lie south-west of *Lemster*, and form in their situation a kind of triangle. They are all market-towns, and the first is pretty considerable for the clothing-trade; the second for ale, and for sending two members to parliament; but the third for nothing that I know of.

The country on the right, as we came from *Ludlow*, is very fruitful and pleasant, and is called the hundred of *Wigmore*, from which the Earl of *Oxford* takes the title of baron, but his seat is at *Eyewood* in this part. Here we saw the two ancient castles of *Brampton-Brian*, and *Wigmore*, both belonging to the late Earl's grandfather, Sir *Edward Harley*. *Brampton* is a stately pile, but not kept in full repair. The parks are fine, and full of large timber.

We are now on the borders of *Wales*, properly so called; for from the windows of *Brampton* castle, you have a fine prospect into the county of *Radnor*, which is, as it were, under its walls; nay, even this whole county of *Hereford* was deemed a part of *Wales* for many ages. The people of this county also boast,

boast, that they were of the ancient *Silures*, who for so many ages withstood the *Roman* arms, and could never be entirely conquered. They are a diligent and laborious people, chiefly addicted to husbandry, and they boast, that they have the finest wool, the best hops, and the richest cyder, in all *Britain*, and possibly with some reason; for the wool about *Leominster*, and in the hundred of *Wigmore*, and the *Golden Vale*, as it is called for its richness on the banks of the river *Dore* (all in this county), is as fine as any in *England*, the *South-down* wool not excepted. As for *Hops*, they plant abundance all over this county, and they are very good. *Cyder* is the common drink of the county, and so very good and cheap, that we never found fault, though we could get no other drink for 20 miles together. Great quantities of this cyder are sent to *London*, even by land-carriage, though so very remote; which is an evidence in its favour beyond contradiction.

One would hardly expect so pleasant and fruitful a country as this, so near the barren mountains of *Wales*; but it is certain, that not any of our southern counties, the neighbourhood of *London* excepted, come up to the fertility of this county.

From *Leominster* it is ten miles to *Hereford*, the chief city, not of this county only, but of all the counties west of the *Severn*. In the time of the civil wars it was very strong, and, being well fortified, and as well defended, supported a tedious and severe siege; for, besides the parliament's forces, who could never reduce it, the *Scots* army was called to the work, who continued before it till they lost above 4000 of their men; and at last it was rather surrendered by the fatal issue of the war, than by the attacks of the besiegers.

It had before this six parish-churches; but two of them were demolished at that time. It has an hospital liberally endowed for 12 poor people,

The

The city of *Hereford* probably sprung from the ruins of the *Roman Ariconium*, now *Kenchester*, three miles off, higher up the river *Wye*, but not very near it, which may be a reason for its decay.

Kenchester stands upon a little brook, called the *Ine*, which thence encompassing the walls of *Hereford*, falls into the *Wye*.

Archenfield seems to retain the name of *Ariconium*. Nothing remains of its splendor, but a piece of a temple probably, with a nich, which is five feet high, and three broad within, built of brick, stone, and indissoluble mortar. There are many large foundations near it. A very fine *Mosaic* floor, a few years ago, was found entire, which was soon torn to pieces by the ignorant country-people. A bath was here found by Sir *John Hoskins*, about seven feet square, the pipes of lead entire: those of brick were a foot long, three inches square, let artificially into one another; over these, I suppose, was a pavement.

All round the city you may easily trace the walls, some stones being left every-where, though over-grown by hedges and timber-trees. The situation of the place is a gentle eminence of a squareish form; the earth black and rich, over-grown with brambles, oak-trees full of stones, foundations, and cavities, where they have been digging, and found many coins, &c.

This city is overlooked and sheltered towards the north with a prodigious mountain of steep ascent; on the top stands a vast camp, with works altogether inaccessible, which is called *Creden-hill*. At the summit, you are presented with an extensive prospect, as far as *St. Michael's Mount* in *Monmouthshire*; crowned with two tops, and of considerable resort among zealots of the *Romish* persuasion, who believe this holy hill was sent thither by *St. Patrick* out of *Ireland*, and that it works wonders in several cases.

On the other side, is the vast black mountain, which

which separates *Brecknockshire* from this county. The town underneath appears like a little copse. *Dinder-hill*, whereon is a *Roman* camp, stands on the contrary bank of the *Wye*.

Upon the *Lug* are *Sutton-walls*, another vast *Roman* camp upon an hill overlooking a beautiful vale, which was the regal residence of the powerful King *Offa*; but chiefly remarkable for the murder of young King *Ethelbert*, whom he allured thither under pretext of courting his daughter, and who was buried in the neighbouring church of *Marden*, situate in a marsh by the river-side. Hence his body was afterwards conveyed to *Hereford*, and enshrined; but the particular place cannot be found, his monument being destroyed by the *Welsh* under a rebellious Earl of *Mercia*, who also plundered the city, and robbed the ecclesiastics.

In the north aisle of the cathedral of *Hereford*, is the shrine, where the body of *Cantilupe*, the great miracle-monger in the west of *England*, was deposited; which aisle was built by himself, and on the wall he is painted. All round are the marks of hooks, where the banners, lamps, reliques, and other presents were hung up. And the riches of this place were doubtless very considerable; for it is well guarded against the assaults of thieves. The shrine is of stone, carved round with knights in armour.

The church, built by Bishop *Althelstan*, is very old and stately. The spire is not high, but handsome, and there is a fine tower at the west-end. The roof, aisles, and chapel, have been added to the more ancient part by successive Bishops, as also the towers, cloisters, &c. The choir, though plain, is handsome, and there is a very good organ. Adjoining to the church is a college for 12 vicars, and the choristers.

The chapter-house, which was very beautiful, was destroyed in the civil wars. About four windows are left standing; and the springings of the stone

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arches between are of fine ribwork, which composed the roof, of that sort of architecture, wherewith King's *College-Chapel* was built. Two windows were pulled down by Bishop *Bisse*, which he used in new fitting-up the episcopal palace. Under the windows, in every compartment, was painted a King, Bishop, Saint, Virgin, or the like; some of which were distinct enough, though so long exposed to the weather.

Here are a great number of monuments of Bishops, and many valuable brasses and tombs.

There is a very grand room lately built near the church for the meeting of the sons of the clergy. The church-yard is large and handsome, being the only one in the city. The deanry stands on the east-side of the church, and is a good building; the Chancellor's-house, and one or two more belonging to the dignitaries, are neat modern buildings.

Between the cathedral and palace is a most venerable pile, built and roofed with stone, consisting of two chapels, one above the other; the upper dedicated to St. *Magdalen*; the lower, which is some steps under-ground, to St. *Catharine*.

The government of the city is administered by a mayor, recorder, and common-council. There are also peculiar privileges for companies, who have separate halls, and power of making by-laws for the benefit of their trade. It has three markets, *Wednesdays*, *Fridays*, and *Saturdays*; and four fairs, *Saturday* before *Palm-Sunday*, and *Saturday* in *Easter* week, for cattle and linen; *Aug. 15*, and *Sept. 19*, for cattle, cheese, hops, and linen. The city sends two members to parliament.

The castle was a noble work, built by one of the *Edwards* before the reign of *William I.* strongly walled and ditched. There is a very lofty artificial keep, having a well fenced with good stone; and by the side of the ditch a spring consecrated to St. *Ethelbert*,

with an old stone arch. Upon the site of the ancient castle, the corporation have made a public walk, called the *Castle Green*. It is very handsome, well kept and adorned with seats, buildings, trees, &c. it is washed on one side by the river *Wye*, commands the most pleasing prospects, and is certainly one of the most delightful public walks belonging to any town in *England*.

Here is also a very spacious and handsome music room, where the triennial music-meeting is held. A very handsome county hospital also, is just erected, upon the plan of the *Worcester* and *Gloucester* infirmaries.

The neighbouring hill, called *Bryn-mawr*, or *The great Hill*, makes amends for the tediousness of climbing it, by the pleasure we receive from its woody crest, and extensive prospect.

At the city of *Hereford* we could not but enquire into the truth of the removing the two great stones near *Sutton*; which was confirmed to us. The story is thus :

Between *Sutton* and *Hereford*, in a common meadow, called the *Wergins*, were placed two large stones for a water-mark ; one erected upright, and the other laid athwart. In the civil wars, about the year 1652, they removed to about twelve-score paces distance, and nobody knew how : when they were set in their places again, one of them required nine yoke of oxen to draw it.

Ledbury lies eastward of *Hereford*, near the south-end of the *Malvern* hills. It is a fine well-built market-town, situate in rich clayey grounds, and much inhabited by clothiers. Here is an hospital for the poor, well endowed, and a charity-school for 23 poor children.

Not far from *Ledbury*, is *Colwal* ; near which, upon the waste, as a countryman was digging a ditch about his cottage, he found a crown or coronet of gold,

with gems set deep in it. It was of a size large enough to be drawn over the arm with the sleeve. The stones of it are said to have been so valuable, as to be sold by a jeweller for 1500*l*.

Hereford, though a large and populous city, may yet be said to be old, mean-built, and very dirty, lying low, and on the bank of the *Wye*, which sometimes incommodes them very much, by the violent freshes that come down from the mountains of *Wales*; for all the rivers of this county, except the *Diffryn-Doe*, come out of *Wales*.

This city hath five gates, *viz.* *St. Owen's*, *Bister's*, *Wigmersh*, *Eign*, and *Fryn-gates*. The other churches are, *All-Saints*, *St. Peter's*, and *St. Nicholas's*. This city gives the title of Viscount to the noble family of *Devereux*, descended from the *Bohuns*, ancient Earls of *Hereford*.

In the beginning of the year 1738, they began to pull down the old *Gothic* chapel belonging to the Bishop's Palace at *Hereford*, in order to erect a pile in a politer taste, for the public service. The demolished chapel was said to be as old as the *Norman* invasion.

Between *Leominster* and this city is another *Hamp-Court*, the seat of the late Earl of *Coningsby*. This is a fine seat, built by *Henry Bolingbroke* Duke of *Lancaster*, afterwards King *Henry IV.* in the form of a castle, situate in a valley upon a rapid river, under coverture of *Bryn-mawr*. The gardens are very pleasant, terminated by vast woods covering all the sloping side of the hill. There is a plentiful supply of water on all sides of the house, for fountains, basons, and canals. Within, are excellent pictures of the Earl's ancestors and others, by *Hol-*
man, *Dobson*, *Vandyke*, Sir *P. Lely*, &c. an original of the founder King *Henry IV.* of Queen *Elizabeth*, and the Dutchess of *Portsmouth*, &c.

The windows of the chapel are well painted: there are some statues of the *Coningsbies*.

Here are two new geometrical stair-cases. The record-room is on the top of a tower arched with stone, paved with *Roman* brick, and has an iron door. From the bottom of a stair-case, which reaches to the top of the house, a subterraneous communication is said to reach into *Bryn-mawr* wood.

The park is very fine, eight miles in circumference, and contains plenty of deer. There are extensive prospects, on one side reaching into *Wiltshire*, on the other over the *Welsh* mountains; lawns, groves, canals, hills, and plains. There is a pool three quarters of a mile long, very broad, and inclosed between two great woods. The dam which forms it, and is made over a valley, cost 800*l.* and was finished in a fortnight. A new river is cut quite through the park, the channel of which, for a long way together, is hewn out of the rock. This serves to enrich vast tracts of land, which before were barren. Here also are new gardens and canals laid out, and new plantations of timber in proper places.

Warrens, decoys, sheep-walks, pastures for cattle, &c. supply the house with all sorts of conveniencies and necessaries.

Westward of *Hereford*, the *Golden Vale* before-mentioned, extends itself along the river *Dore*, which runs through the midst of it, and is called by the *Britons*, *Dyffryn-Aur*, or the *Golden Vale*, from its pleasant fertility in the spring, when it is covered over with a yellow livery of flowers. It is encompassed with hills, which are crowned with woods.

From *Hereford*, upon a very fine stone causeway of near a mile long, we came to *Ross*, famous for cyder, a great manufacture of iron-ware, and its trade on the river *Wye*. It is a fine well-built old town, and has a handsome church in it, with two charity-schools, one for 30 boys, the other for 20

girls, who are taught and cloathed by subscription. It was made a free borough by *Henry III.*

From hence we came at about eight miles more into *Monmouthshire*, formerly a *Welsh*, but now an *English* county, and to the town of *Monmouth*. It is a place of great antiquity, large, and well-built, situated at the conflux of the *Wye* and *Munnow*, whence its name; it stands in the angle where the rivers join, and has a bridge over each river, and a third over the river *Trothy*, which comes in just below the other.

This town shews marks of great antiquity; and, by the remains of walls, lines, curtains, and bastions, that it has been very strong. It is a borough-town, governed by two bailiffs, 15 common-council-men, and a town-clerk; and sends one member to parliament. At present it is not very flourishing; yet it drives a considerable trade with the city of *Bristol*, by the navigation of the *Wye*.

This river, having received two large streams, the *Munnow* and the *Trothy*, becomes a noble river; and with a deep channel and a full current, hurries away towards the sea, carrying vessels of a considerable burden.

Near *Monmouth*, the Duke of *Beaufort* has a fine seat, called *Troy-house*.

Lower down upon the *Wye*, in this shire, stands *Chepstow*, the sea-port for all the towns seated on this river, and the *Lug*, and where their commerce seems to center. Hither ships of good burden may come up, and the tide runs with the same impetuous current as at *Bristol*; the flood rising ordinarily from 36 or 39 feet, at *Chepstow* bridge, which is a very noble one, though built of timber, and no less than 70 feet high from the surface of the water, when the tide is out. That this was not a needless height, was evident in *January 1738*, when the water rose

at the bridge upwards of 70 feet, and very much damaged it: one man lost above 130 head of cattle, which, with other damages it did there, and in the adjacent places, were computed at 7 or 8000 l. *Chepstow* has a well frequented market, especially for corn. The bridge, as half of it is in *Gloucestershire*, is maintained at the expence of both counties.

The remains of the castle form a most beautiful object as you enter the town, as well as from the woods, &c. of *Persfield*, the seat of Mr. *Morris*, which without entering into a description that would demand a volume, possesses the most beautiful and magnificent scenery, take it in all its parts and varieties, of any place in the kingdom. It commands the conflux of the *Wye* and the *Severn*, and looks down the latter to the *Bristol* channel, while stupendous rocks, immense woods, distant prospects, and all the softer beauties of elegant improvement render *Persfield* a scene that fills the beholder with the most ravishing admiration.

The inhabitants of *Chepstow*, being industrious, draw to themselves a large share of trade from the neighbouring counties, which abound in corn and provisions, and have a great intercourse, by the distribution and exportation of what they thus receive, with *Gloucester* and *Bristol*.

Two miles from this town is the famous passage over the *Severn*, on this side called *Beachley*, and on the other *Aust*, as I have mentioned before. Here *Offa's Dyke* begins, and, passing through *Radnorshire*, extends itself up to *Flintshire*, and so to the river *Dee*, which parts *Wales* from *Cheshire*.

We turned northwards, and arrived at *Abergavenny*, a market-town, situated at the mouth of the *Gavenny*, as its name signifies, running into the *Usk*. It carries on some trade in flannels, which the country-people manufacture at home, and bring hither to sell. It is a great thoroughfare from the western parts

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parts of *Wales* to *Bristol* and *Bath* by *Chepstow*, and to *Gloucester* by *Monmouth*; and so crossing the river through *Colford*, and the forest of *Dean*. This town is governed by a bailiff, recorder, and 27 burgesses.

The environs of *Abergavenny* are rich and beautiful, and, like the rest of the vale from *Brecknock*, abound with the most charming variety of landscape. The prospects are terminated at proper distances with mountains, among which, at the opposite side of the town, *Skirid-vawr* and *Blorench* raise their conspicuous heads.

The town has a few good houses scattered in it; but, in general, the streets are narrow, ill-paved, and ill-built: some of the walls, and part of the tower on the keep, are the only remains of a once flourishing *Norman* castle. My curiosity did not lead me to visit the new college or seminary, which was lately founded in this neighbourhood, by the pious munificence of a right honourable Lady.

This academy is instituted for the instruction and maintenance of youths who may shew any forward or extraordinary marks of genius. The students may be taken from the cottage, or from the field, without distinction of rank or age; but their abilities or their call must be indisputable, before they can be admitted within those sacred walls: these are the only qualifications required.

The fuel in this county is pit-coal, and is very cheap, insomuch that they sell an horse-load for two pence, at the pit-mouth; and it is common in the meanest cot to see a good fire.

Great quantities of corn are exported out of this county; and frequently the *Bristol* merchants send their ships hither to load for *Portugal*, and other foreign countries.

L E T T E R VI.

*Containing a description of the greatest part of the
Principality of WALES.*

IT may not perhaps be improper, before I proceed to the description of this principality, (it being the country of that brave people who had an original right to the whole island, and who made so noble a stand in defence of their claim to it) to say something of the natives themselves, especially as a late learned and ingenious traveller * supplies me with so many proper materials for that purpose.

The character of the ancient inhabitants of this country, is given us in very unfavourable terms by many historians. They are represented as having no kind of idea of chastity. Promiscuous concubinage, they say, was in a manner allowed, and no stigma fixed upon it; but it is now well known, how cautiously the *Welsh* laws guarded the morals of the women, and how unjustly they have been accused.

In the time of *Henry II.* the inhabitants of *Wales* were so deplorably dark, that they could not with the least propriety be called Christians, and many of them were even professed Pagans. The *Don Quixotte* Archbishop, with his *Sancho Pancha*, *Giraldus*, went upon an expedition to convert these Heathens. The Archbishop preached to the poor *Welsh* in Latin, they were baptized, kissed the cross, and so the mission ended; but how much to their edification may be easily concluded.

* Letters from Snowden, 2d. Edit. 8vo. 1777.

So late as the reign of *Elizabeth*, if we may believe *Penry*, there were but two or three who could preach in the whole principality of *Wales*. Some, of late years, have greatly promoted the cause of religion, by the translation of pious books into that language, and distributing them among the poor. There is still great room for improvement, as they are not only in want, but desirous of religious knowledge.

In former times, the inhabitants of *Wales* were described to be a nation of soldiers, every man being obliged to take up arms in times of distress. Thus, though a small country, they could bring large armies into the field. They used very light armour, as they carried on the war by incursions and forced marches, and conquered their enemies rather by surprise than strength or courage.

They had only a small target to defend their breast, and used the javelin as a weapon of offence. Thus armed, and thus defended, they were no way equal to the *English* in a pitched battle, who fought with heavy armour, helmets and targets, and armed at all points.

They always fought on foot: like all undisciplined soldiers, they made one furious onset, which, if resisted, they were immediately put in confusion, and could not be rallied: they fled to the mountains, where they waited for another opportunity to fall upon their enemies.

They despised trade and mechanical arts, as they in general do to this day. Though they had no money among them, yet there were no beggars in the country, for they were all poor. They are described to have been impetuous in their disposition, sickle, revengeful, and bloody; but be it remembered, that this character is given them by their enemies.

Their superstition was excessive; they paid the

greatest veneration to their priests, and looked upon them and their habitations as sacred.

The ceremonies attending the marriages of these people are different from any thing of the kind in *England*. The bridegroom, on the morning of the wedding, accompanied with a troop of his friends, as well equipped as the country will allow, comes and demands the bride. Her friends, who are likewise well mounted on their *Merlins*, (the *Welsh* word for little mountain horses) give a positive refusal to their demands, whereupon a mock scuffle ensues between the parties. The bride is mounted on one of the best steeds, behind her next kinsman, who rides away with her in full career. The bridegroom and his friends pursue them with loud shouts. It is not uncommon to see, on such an occasion, two or three hundred of these *Merlins*, mounted by sturdy *Cambro-Britons*, riding full speed, crossing and jostling each other, to the no small amusement of the spectators. When they have pretty well fatigued themselves and their horses, the bridegroom is permitted to overtake his bride: he then leads her away in triumph, as the *Romans* did the *Sabine* nymphs. They all return in amity, and the whole is concluded with festivity and mirth.

One would naturally suppose, that a young woman who had, without fear or restraint, enjoyed an almost unbounded liberty in a single state, would not be easily debarred from enjoying the same in the married; but the case is just the reverse. Infidelity to the bed of *Hymen* is scarcely ever known or heard of in this country: adultery is a weed that thrives in the rank soil of a court, fostered by luxury and vanity.

In the character of wives, the women of this country are laborious, industrious, and chaste: in that of mothers, they nurture their robust offspring,

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not in sloth and inactivity, but enure them early to undergo hardships and fatigues.

Let the fair daughters of Indolence and Ease contemplate the characters of these patterns of industry, who are happily unacquainted with the gay follies of life; who enjoy health without medicine, and happiness without affluence. Equally remote from the grandeur and miseries of life, they participate of the sweet blessings of content, under the homely dwelling of a straw-built cottage.

If the marriage ceremonies of this people are singular, those of their funerals are no less so. The evening preceding the burial, they have what they call *Wyl-nos*, that is, the night of lamentation: all the neighbours attend at the house of the deceased; the minister, or, in his absence, the clerk of the parish, comes and prays over the dead, and Psalms are sung agreeable to the mournful occasion. This, it may not be unreasonably supposed, is the remains of the *Romish* superstitions of requiems for the souls of the deceased. The friends of the dead person then make presents to the officiating clergyman, and the clerk of the parish—another relique of popery.

The people of this country are not inferior in superstition to the *Laplanders*; the most improbable and absurd tales of haunted houses, demons, and apparitions, are related and believed; nor can many be found so hardy as to doubt the existence of witches, fairies, elves, and all the bugbears of a winter's tale.

The manner of living, of the lower class of people, is extremely poor, the chief of their subsistence being barley and oat bread. They very seldom eat flesh, or drink any thing but milk. They are not of that passionate and choleric temper as the *English* describe them, but slow, deliberate, and wary in their speech and conduct.

As this people have made no very considerable

progress in a state of civilization; we might naturally be induced to think, that their language is barbarous and uncultivated; but the contrary is true. It is not clogged with those many inharmonious syllables, the signs of moods, tenses, and cases, as the *English* language. It is much more harmonious and expressive in its numbers and formation, one word in *Welsh* frequently expressing as much as a sentence in the *English*; of which a late ingenious writer has given abundant specimens*.

Several counties of *Wales* have made but a very slow progress in agriculture. In many places bordering upon *England*, they have in a great degree adopted the *English* manner of tillage: in some parts of the counties of *Montgomery*, *Denbigh*, and *Flint*, the lands are well improved; but the remoter they are from the *English* counties, the less is there of the spirit of industry and improvement among the inhabitants. The farmers and labourers are most of them miserably poor, and hold the lands generally from year to year at rack rents: if one, more industrious than the rest, should make any improvement, the landlord advances his rent, or turns him out. It is therefore the interest of the farmer to let them lie waste, as he has no certainty of a return, when he is liable to be turned out at the landlord's pleasure: they only take care to get just sufficient by their industry to supply present want, and let the morrow provide for itself.

* As several names occur in this *Tour*, written according to the *Welsh* orthography, it may not be improper to inform the *English* reader, that the material difference of pronunciation depends on the following characters.—C, in *Welsh*, is pronounced like K in *English*.—F, as V.—G, as G hard in *Gun*.—W, as oo, in *Good*.—Dd, as Tb.—Ll, as Tbl, strongly aspirated.—Y, in any syllable of a word, except the last, as U, in *burn*; but in the last syllable, as the *English* I in *Birtb*.—A specimen of the two last characters occurs in the word *Llanvyllyn*, a town in *Montgomeryshire*, which is pronounced Tblan-vutb-lin.—See a Gentleman's *Tour through Monmouthshire and Wales*.

Nothing

Nothing would contribute more to the cultivation of the country, than the granting of leases for life to the farmers, even at advanced rents; they would then have a certain prospect of profit for their labour and expence, which would ultimately turn out to the benefit of the landlord, the tenant, and the public.

Having finished this digression, I shall proceed on my Tour into *South Wales*, which contains the counties of *Brecknock*, *Radnor*, *Glamorgan*, *Carmarthen*, *Pembroke*, and *Cardigan*.

Brecknockshire is a mere inland county, like *Radnor*. It is exceedingly mountainous, except on the side of *Radnor*, where it is somewhat more low and level, and is well watered by the *Wye* and the *Usk*.

Brecknock, the capital of the county, is a large handsome town, situated on a fine rise above the *Usk*: a few walls, and some remnants of *Ely* town, on the keep of *Brecknock* castle, are still visible. The walls behind the great church on the hill are exceedingly pleasing, are laid out with taste, and very neatly preserved. They are formed on the shady declivity of a hill, the foot of which is washed by the torrent of the river *Horthy*. The remains of the old college are near the *Usk*; and part of them as well within the present chapel as without, are as old as the original foundation, which was laid in the reign of *Henry I.*

Several old encampments are to be seen on the hills about *Brecknock*; but the most remarkable fortification is *y Gaer*, about two miles N. W. from the town. This last is indisputably *Roman*, and is situated on a gentle eminence, at the conflux of the rivers *Eskir* and *Usk*; part of the walls are still remaining. I was shewn a square *Roman* brick, with LEG. II. AVG. finely imprinted on it, which was dug up at this camp*.

* See the work mentioned in the preceding note.

The

The turnpike now follows the current of the *Uſk*, being commonly within view of it, through a delicious vale, which is diverſified with paſtures, woods, and mountains: the lands are cultivated to the beſt advantage, and are well inhabited.

Though *Brecknockſhire* is ſo very mountainous, yet provisions are exceeding good and plentiful all over the county; nor are theſe mountains uſeleſs, even to the city of *London*; for from hence they ſend yearly great herds of black cattle to *England*, and which are known to fill our fairs and markets, even that of *Smithfield* itſelf.

The yellow mountains of *Radnorſhire* are the ſame, as is alſo their product of cattle. Here is a great cataſt or water-fall of the river *Wye*, at a place called *Rhaiadr Gwy* in *Welſh*, which ſignifies the cataſt or water-fall of the *Wye*; but we did not go to ſee it, by reaſon there was a great flood out at that time, which made the way dangerous.

We ſhall only add, that *Radnor* is the ſhire-town, ſends one member to parliament, and hath a caſtle; that *Preſteigne* in *Radnorſhire* is a well built town, and the aſſizes are held there.

Entering *Glamorganshire*, from *Radnor* and *Brecknock*, we beheld *Manuchdenny-hill* on our left, and the *Black-Mountains* on the right, and all a ridge of horrid rocks and precipices between, over which, if we had not had good guides, we ſhould never have found our way; and indeed we began to repent our curioſity, in going out of the common road, as not having met with any thing worth the trouble; and the country looking ſo full of horror, we thought to have given over the enterprize, and have left *Wales* out of our circuit; but after a day and a night engaging thus with rocks and mountains, our guide brought us down into a moſt agreeable vale, opening to the ſouth, and a pleaſant river running through it, called the *Taaſſe*; and following its courſe, we

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came to a famous spring of warm water, called *Taaffe-well*, rising up in a dry shole under the northern bank of the river. Four miles further we passed through the ancient city of *Landaff*; and in the evening arrived at *Cardiff*, a *Welsh* mile beyond it.

Cardiff is a populous, but ill-built town; nor is there any thing very pleasing in its environs. Its situation is on a low flat, near the mouth of the *Taaffe*. The old walls of this town are very extensive, and the ruins of them are still considerable.

Landaff stands on a gentle elevation, but is in reality a paltry village, though a bishopric *. The remains of the old cathedral are very beautiful; the door-cases are all of *Norman* work, and well executed; the rest of it is an elegant *Gothic*, constructed so early as the year 1120, and is perhaps one of the oldest *Gothic* specimens in this island.

The modern cathedral, on which large sums have lately been lavished, is a medley of absurdities. Part of the ancient nave is included in it; but the re-builder has added *Roman* architecture, mixed with a capricious kind of his own, to the solemnity of the *Norman* and *Gothic*. In order to make the ridicule complete, the *Christian* altar is raised under the portico of a heathen temple, which projects into the choir.

The south part of *Glamorganshire* is pleasant, agreeable, and very populous, insomuch that it is called *The Garden of Wales*. Its soil is fertile and rich, and the low grounds are so well covered with grass, and stocked with cattle, that they supply the city of *Bristol* with butter in great quantities, salted and barrelled up, as *Suffolk* does the city of *London*.

Caerphylly consists of a few straggling cottages, and is surrounded with rude and uncultivated mountains.

* It sends one member to parliament; though, like the boroughs in *Cardiganshire*, there are five or six others concerned in the choice.

The

The castle here is one of the noblest pieces of ruins in the whole island. It was larger than any castle in *England*, that of *Windsor* excepted; and, from what remains of it, was as beautiful in its architecture, as it is remarkable in its ruins; among which a round tower, split in the middle, and one half fallen quite down, the other half leaning so as to over-hang its basis more than nine feet, is as great a curiosity as the celebrated leaning tower of *Pisa* in *Italy*.

About eight or nine miles north of this place, a few years ago, a very remarkable bridge was built over the *Taaffe*. It consists of one arch, (perhaps the largest in the world) the segment of a circle; the chord is 140 feet; the key-stone, from the spring of the arch, is 34 feet high. The architect was *William Edward*, who was living in 1773. He is now, or then was, a Methodist preacher. Had the remains of such an arch been discovered among the ruins of *Greece* or *Rome*, what pains would be taken by the learned antiquarians to discover the architect; whilst honest *William Edward*, if living, remains unnoticed among his native mountains!

Neath is a port where the coal-trade is pretty considerable, though it stands up within land. It is governed by a portreeve, chosen yearly, and sworn in by the deputy of an old castle of the same name, on the opposite side of the river *Neath*, over which there is a bridge. It is a pretty large town.

Swansea makes an handsome appearance from the approach to it, being built near the mouth of the *Tavey*, on a semicircular rising bank above it. The town is populous, and the streets are wide. It carries on a considerable trade in coals, pottery, and copper. A large copper-work is constantly smoking within view of the town, and another, still larger, employs many hands, a few miles higher up the river, near *Neath*.

Such

Such is the profusion of coal and lime-stone in *Glamorganshire*, that lime is the general manure of the whole country; and there are few estates, either here or in *Monmouthshire*, without the advantage of lime-pits for that purpose. The houses, walls, and out-buildings, are commonly white-washed; and there is scarcely a cottage to be seen, which is not regularly brushed over every week.

The remaining walls of *Swansea* castle are finished with an open *Gothic* parapet, through the arches of which the water ran from the tiles, and thereby added much to its duration.

Many half-pay officers, with their families, and others, have pitched upon this place as a cheap and agreeable retreat.

Kynfig-Castle was the seat and estate of the Lord *Mansel*, who has here also a very noble income from the collieries; which formerly denominated Sir *Edward Mansel* one of the richest commoners in *Wales*. The family was ennobled by her late Majesty *Queen Anne*, but the title is now extinct.

In this neighbourhood, near *Margan Mynydd*, we saw the famous monument mentioned by Mr. *Camden*, on an hill, with the inscription, which the vulgar are so terrified at, that nobody cares to read it; for they have a tradition from father to son, that whoever reads it will die within a month. We did not scruple to try; but the letters were so defaced by time, that we were effectually secured from the danger; the inscription not being any thing near so legible, as it seems it was in Mr. *Camden's* time.

The stone pillar is about four or five feet high, and one foot thick, standing on the top of this hill: there are several other such monuments in *Radnorshire*, and other counties in *Wales*, as likewise in *Scotland*.

Having thus touched on what is most curious on this.

this coast, we passed through the land of *Gowre*, and going still west, we came to *Caermarthen*, or *Kaer-Vyrdhin*, as the *Welsh* call it, the capital of the county of *Kaermardhin*.

This is an ancient and a very handsome town, pleasantly situated on the river *Tavey*, which is navigable up to the town, for vessels of a moderate burden, and over which is a large bridge. It is justly esteemed the politest place in *South-Wales*, and is at the same time celebrated for industry and attention to trade. The town is well built, and populous; it is lately much increased, and still increasing; and the country round it is the most fruitful of any part of *Wales*, and continues to be so through all the middle of the county, and a great way into the next; nor is this county so mountainous and wild as the rest of this part of *Wales*: But it abounds in corn, and in fine flourishing meadows, as good as most in *Britain*; and in which are fed a very great number of good cattle.

The chancery and exchequer, for the south part of the principality, were usually kept at this town, till the jurisdiction of the court and marches of *Wales* was taken away. This town was also famous for the birth of the old *British* prophet, *Merlin*, of whom so many things are fabled, and who flourished in the year 480; and here also the old *Britons* often kept their parliaments, or assemblies of their wise men, and made their laws. Part of the castle is now used as a county-gaol; but there is nothing remarkable in the ruins of it. *Caermarthen* was erected into a borough in 38 *Henry VIII.* and made a borough and county corporate by *James I.* under a mayor, recorder, 2 sheriffs, and 16 aldermen, who upon solemn occasions all wear scarlet gowns, and other ensigns of state, and are attended by a sword-bearer and two mace-bearers. It sends one member to parliament.

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We are assured by *Speed*, that, in the county of *Caermarthen*, there are no less than 28 rivers and rivulets worthy of notice.

Here we saw, near *Kily-Maen Llwyd*, on a great mountain, a circle of mighty stones, very much like *Stone-henge* in *Wiltshire*, or rather like the *Rollrich* stones in *Oxfordshire*; and though the people call it *Buarth Arthur*, or *King Arthur's Throne*, we see no reason to believe that it had any relation to him.

The next county, west, is *Pembrokeshire*, the most extreme part of *Wales* on this side. It is a rich, fertile, and plentiful country, lying on the sea-coast, where it has the benefit of *Milford-Haven*, one of the greatest and best ports of *Britain*. *Mr. Camden* said, it contained 16 creeks, 5 great bays, and 13 good roads for shipping, all distinguished as such by their names.

This place is famous for the landing of the Earl of *Richmond*, afterwards *King Henry VII.*

The county of *Pembroke* abounds, particularly, in that sort of coal called *Stone Coal*, the small pieces of which are stiled culm, which is very useful in drying malt, and is the cheapest and best firing in the world for hot-houses and garden-stoves, burning long with a bright red colour, and very little flame or smoak; affording at the same time, a strong and equal heat.

Within two miles of *Newport*, a poor and mean town, situated under the ruins of a small castle, the road passes close to the remains of four or five druidical sepulchres, or altars. The stones are large, and were originally supported with four upright pillars. They are all within the circumference of about sixty yards, and one of them was nearly perfect in 1774.

Before we quitted the coast, we saw *Tenbigh*, the most agreeable town on all the sea-coast of *South-Wales*,

Wales, except *Pembroke*; being a very good road for shipping, and well frequented. It is seated on a promontory, which extends into what is commonly called the *Severn-Sea*, and was formerly strengthened with a castle belonging to the Earl of *Pembroke*; from whence Earl *Jasper*, and his nephew *Henry* Earl of *Richmond*, afterwards *Henry VII.* made their escape beyond the seas, in the reign of *Edward IV.* with some difficulty. It was then, and continued for many years after, a very considerable place; having a good harbour, defended by a pier, and a large share of foreign commerce. This place is governed by a mayor and bailiff.

From *Tenbigh* the land, bearing far into the sea, makes a promontory, called *St. Coven's-Head*, or *Point*. But as we found nothing of moment there, we crossed over the Isthmus to *Pembroke*, which stands on the east shore of the great haven of *Milford*.

The view of *Pembroke* and its castle, from the river, is very grand. The town is situated upon the ridge of a long and narrow neck, gradually ascending to the highest point, on which stands the castle, at the edge of the precipice. If I may compare small things with great, it resembles much the situation of *Edinburgh*. The castle is a *Norman* structure, mixed with the early *Gothic*. The principal tower, which is uncommonly high, has even its stone-vaulted roof remaining. This fortress was built by *Girald*, constable of *Windsor*, the ancestor of *Cambrensis*. *Pembroke* sends one member to parliament.

There is a peculiarity in the dress of the *Pembroke-shire* women, who, even in the midst of summer, wear a heavy cloth gown; and, instead of a cap, a large handkerchief wrapt over their heads, and tied under their chin. This custom is certainly peculiar to *Pembroke-shire*; for in the other parts of *Wales*, the women,

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women, as well as the men, wear large beaver hats, with broad brims, flapping over their shoulders.

It has been long expected, that a public dock would be established in *Milford-Haven*; and in the year 1757, a petition of several merchants of *London* was presented to the house of commons. This petition was referred to a committee; and, upon the report, an address was resolved to his Majesty, to appoint a survey of the said harbour. It was accordingly surveyed in *November* 1757, by Lieutenant-Colonel *Bastide*, director of engineers.

In the succeeding session of parliament, the report, plans, and estimates, for fortifying *Milford-Haven*, by Lieutenant-Colonel *Bastide*, were referred to a committee; and in consequence thereof, 10,000*l.* were granted towards carrying on the works for fortifying and securing the harbour of *Milford*, and an act passed for that purpose; but we are sorry that we cannot as yet congratulate the public upon the completion of this great national object.

That part of the county lying beyond the haven, and watered by two rivers, is inhabited by the descendants of those *Flemings*, who were permitted to settle there by *Henry I.* when the sea had overflowed their native country. The *Welsh* call it *Little England beyond Wales*; the inhabitants mostly speaking the *English* tongue.

We then passed round *Milford-Haven*, in order to enter *St. Bride's Bay*, into which ships are often forced by stress of weather, and where they might meet with more safety, if some money was properly laid out, in perfecting what nature has begun, and prosecuted pretty far too, in several places. A good pier, carried out a sufficient distance from the promontory called *Burrow-Head*, would make *Goldtop* road very safe, in between three and four fathom water. To the north-west lies *Solvach-Bay*, which might be converted into an excellent harbour for small

small vessels, though now dangerous, hardly known, and of little use. The placing sea-marks on those hitherto terrible rocks the *Horse* and *Horse-shoe*, would make the passage safe through *Ramsay-Sound*; and possibly all these advantages might be procured for less than 1000*l*. These would not only prove a great benefit to navigation, and remove the reproaches cast in general on this coast, but be likewise very serviceable to the adjacent country, where coal mines actually are, and lead and copper mines may and would be wrought, if these harbours were in better order; to say nothing of what might probably arise from taking seals, porpoises, &c. which are here in abundance.

Cridach Road, lying to the east of *Cardigan Island*, is tolerable for small vessels, with a good outlet; which is the reason it has been sometimes frequented in time of war by *French* privateers. A small pier at *Cridach*, might make a safe port for vessels employed in the herring-fishery. The coast is very foul, and consequently dangerous, along the shore of *Merionethshire*, as high as *Sarn Badrig*, or *Patrick's Causeway*, which is a ledge of rocks, very narrow and steep; and being many years ill laid down in the charts, occasioned many wrecks. This seems to countenance the tradition of the natives, that all this bay was formerly land, and was denominated *Cantref Gwaelod*, but was swallowed by the sea in the beginning of the sixth century.

About two leagues to the north-east of this ledge of rocks commences that famous road, held inferior to none in *Britain*, called *St. Tudwals*, from an island on which are the remains of an old chapel, dedicated to that saint. This road, corruptly called *Stidwells*, in an ancient author stiled *the fair and pleasant Stud-dals*, is in reality a very extraordinary and commodious place, so extensive as to hold any number of ships, well defended by the high lands of *Caernarvonshire*

Penrhyn on one side, and by *Ynys Tudwall*, and a smaller island from the sea, on the other; the water deep, and the outlet easy. By running a pier of stone from *Penryhn Du Point* to the northward, a good dry harbour might be made for small vessels; and there are veins of lead and copper ore on the adjacent coast.

Keiriad, *Aberdaron*, and *Porthorian* roads, lie on the adjacent coast, and afford nothing remarkable.

Porthdinllyn and *Newyn* are two small ports, defended by piers, which are useful for covering such vessels as are employed in the herring-fishery.

Haverford-west, a borough-town and county of itself, is commodiously situated on the side of a hill, in a creek of *Milford-Haven*, over which it has a grand stone bridge. It is strong, well built, clean, and populous; contains three parish-churches, and the assizes are held, and gaol kept there. It has a great trade, and many vessels are employed in it. The two weekly markets, held on *Tuesday* and *Saturday*, are very considerable, both for cattle and provisions. The government is by a mayor, sheriff, common-council, and justices of the peace; it enjoys many privileges and immunities; sends one member to parliament; and near it are a number of gentlemen's seats, which contribute to the agreeableness of its situation.

From *Haverford* to *St. David's*, the country begins to look dry, barren, and mountainous.

St. David's is now a bishop's see only, but was formerly an archbishop's, which was transferred to *Avrille* in *Britany*, where it still remains.

The venerable aspect of this cathedral church shews, that it has been a beautiful building. The west end or body of the church is tolerable; the choir is kept neat; the south aisle, and the Virgin Mary's chapel, which makes the east end of the church,

church, are in a manner demolished, and the roofs of both fallen in.

A great many eminent persons have been buried here, besides such whose monuments are defaced by time. Among these is *St. David's* monument, to whom the church is dedicated; the monument of the Earl of *Richmond*, as also of the famous *Owen Tudor*; also four ancient monuments, with figures lying cross-legged; and six monuments of bishops, who presided over this church, besides *St. David*.

This saint, they tell us, was uncle to King *Arthur*; that he lived to 146 years of age, being born in the year 496, and died 642; that he was bishop of this church 65 years; that he built 12 monasteries, and performed abundance of miracles.

There was a very handsome house for the bishop, with a college, all built in a close by themselves; but they are now in ruins.

The weather being clear, we had a full view of *Ireland*, though at a very great distance. The land here is called *St. David's-Head*.

From hence we turned north, keeping the sea in our west prospect, and a rugged mountainous country on the east, where the hills even darkened the air with their height.

Here we left *Pembrokeshire*, and after about 22 miles came to *Cardigan*, a well-inhabited town, on the river *Tywy*, over which it has a stone bridge: It is a noble river, and famous for its plenty of the best and largest salmon in *Britain* *.

* Thirty years ago, the sea-coast of *Cardiganshire* abounded with herrings; but now there are hardly any, as I was informed when there in 1773, which they attributed to this circumstance: *Cardiganshire* produces no lime-stone, and wants manure. For that reason, they bring lime-stone unburnt from other countries, and burn them in kilns on the coast. It is supposed, that the water being tinged with the lime, has driven them away.

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The town of *Cardigan* was once possessed by the great *Robert Fitz Stephen*, who was the first *Briton* that ever attempted the conquest of *Ireland*; and had such success, with an handful of men, as afterwards gave the *English* a footing there, which they never quitted, till they quite reduced the country, and made it, as it were, a province to *England*.

Cardigan stands upon a gentle eminence, rising from the *Tyvy*, over which there is a handsome stone bridge. Part of the outward walls of the castle is still remaining; but the materials within have been long since removed. *Cardigan* is an ancient borough, governed by a mayor, aldermen, and other officers; and, in conjunction with four other officers, sends one member to parliament.

We rode from here to *Llangordmore*, and sending our horses from thence round to *Llechryd* bridge, followed a beautiful shady path, cut from the precipice of the *Tyvy* bank, for two miles. This river runs in a broad and translucent stream, between the sloping hills, which are about 200 feet in height, and wholly covered with wood, from the water's brink to their summit. This sylvan scene is only once intercepted by a lofty, naked, and projecting rock, on which stand the romantic ruins of *Gilgarron* castle, and which, by its singular contrast to the rest of the view, gives a finishing to a delicious landscape.

Aberystwyth is situated on an easy elevation, in the midst of a broad vale, at the mouth of the river *Ystwyth*. This town carries on an inconsiderable trade at present; for the bar of the haven is seldom practicable for large vessels, excepting in spring-tides. Part of the old wall of the town is remaining, but all the facing stones have been taken away. Its castle has undergone the same fate, and the ruins of it are now trifling, except one, a *Gothic* tower, the shell of which remains for a sea-mark.

The county of *Cardigan* is in no-wise comparable

to either of those *Welsh* counties we have already passed through, there being a great deal of barren land in it. However, it is so full of cattle, that it is said to be the nursery, or breeding-place, for the whole kingdom of *England*, south of *Trent*: But this is not a proof of its fertility; for though the feeding of cattle indeed requires a rich soil, the breeding them does not, the mountains and moors being as proper for that purpose as richer land.

Now we entered *North Wales*; only I should add, that, as we passed, we had a sight of the famous *Plymlymon-hill*, out of the east side of which rise the *Severn* and the *Wye*; and out of the west side of it the *Ryddol* and the *Ystwyth*. This mountain is exceeding high, having an unbounded prospect over the *Isle of Man* into *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and over the *Welsh* mountains into *England*. This prospect is only to be seen about *Simpel*, and then not often; many having fatigued themselves in getting to the top, and returned disappointed by the fogs residing below. Nor is the country, for twenty miles round it, any thing but a continued ridge of mountains: So that for a few days we seemed to be conversing in the upper regions; for we were often above the clouds a great way, and the names of some of these hills seemed as barbarous to us who spoke no *Welsh*, as the hills themselves.

Passing these mountains north, we entered *North-Wales*, which contains the counties of *Montgomery*, *Merioneth*, *Caernarvon*, *Denbigh*, and *Flint* shires, and the isle of *Anglesea*.

In passing *Montgomeryshire*, we were so tired with hills and mountains, that we wished heartily we had kept close to the sea-shore; but we had not much mended the matter, if we had, as I understood afterwards. The river *Severn* is the principal beauty of this county, which rising out of the *Plymlymon* mountain,

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tain, receives in a short course so many other rivers into its bosom, that it becomes navigable before it gets out of the county, at *Welsh-Pool*, on the edge of *Shropshire*.

Montgomery, though it sends one member to parliament, is but a very small town, and thinly inhabited.

The town of *Welsh-Pool* is the most considerable in the whole county, being regular and well built. About a mile from *Pool* is *Powis-Castle*, the seat of Lord *Powis*. It is situated on a fine hill, which commands a prospect of an extensive, variegated, and fertile country; but the house, and the fine gardens, are much neglected and decayed, as his Lordship does not reside here. The vale of *Montgomery*, which we see from the castle, is not equalled by any, in point of beauty and fertility, in *Wales*, and perhaps not exceeded by any in *England*. The *Severn* winds its serpentine course through this vale, and heightens the beauties of the prospect. On each side the vale, the hills tower in majestic grandeur.

The hills and mountains in this country are covered with verdure to this very summit, being a perfect contrast to some others, where we saw nothing but craggy rocks, and dreadful precipices.

Merionethshire, or *Merionysdshire*, lies west from *Montgomeryshire* on the *Irish* sea, or rather the ocean; for *St. George's* channel does not begin till farther north; and it is extended on the coast for near 35 miles in length, all still mountainous and craggy. The principal river is the *Towy*, which rises among unpassable mountains, which range along the center of this part of *Wales*, and which we looked at with astonishment, for their prodigious height. Some of the hills have particular names, but otherwise we call them all, *The Black Mountains*; and they well deserve the name.

There are but few large towns in all this part; nor is it very populous, much of it being scarce habitable; but it is said, there are more sheep in it, than in all the rest of *Wales*. On the sea-shore, however, we saw *Harleigh*, or *Harlech-Castle*, which is still a garrison, and kept for the guard of the coast; but it is of no other strength, than what its situation gives it.

Here, among almost innumerable summits, and rising peaks of nameless hills, we saw the famous *Kader-Idris*, which some are of opinion, is the highest mountain in *Britain*; another, called *Raravaur*; another, called *Mowywynda*; and still every hill we saw we thought higher than all we had seen before.

We enquired here after that strange phenomenon, which was not only seen, but fatally experienced, by the country round this place; namely of a livid fire, coming off from the sea, and setting on fire houses, barns, stacks of hay and corn, and poisoning the herbage of the field; of which there is a full account given in the *Philosophical Transactions* *: And as we had it confirmed by the general voice of the people, I shall take notice, that the *Transactions* particularly observe, that the eclipses of the sun in *Aries* have been very fatal to this place; and that in the years 1542 and 1567, when the sun was eclipsed in that sign, it suffered very much by fire; and after the latter eclipse of the two, the fire spread so far, that above 200 houses in the town and suburbs of *Caernarvon*, were consumed.

This mountainous country runs away north through *Merionethshire*, and almost through *Caernarvonshire*. These unpassable heights were doubtless the refuge of the *Britons*, when, in their continual wars with the *Romans* and *Saxons*, they were overpowered.

* The same thing has been experienced in *France*. However, it does not really burn, being liable to be extinguished by throwing clothes, blankets, &c. upon it. *Vide Roy. Acad. de Sci.*

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That side of the county of *Caernarvon*, which borders on the sea, is not so mountainous, and is more fertile and populous. The principal place in this part is *Caernarvon*, a walled town, opposite to *Anglesea*. It is about eight miles from *Bangor*, and stands pleasantly situated on the banks of the *Menai*. It has a noble castle, built by *Edward I.* where his queen was brought-to-bed of *Edward II.* They shew the queen's bedchamber to all travellers that visit the castle *. It is built in the *Roman* stile of architecture, and has one tower eminent above the rest, called the *Eagle's Tower*, from an eagle carved upon it. The town is surrounded by a wall, and seems to have been well fortified for those days. It is governed by the constable of the castle, who, by his patent, is always mayor, and is assisted by an alderman, 2 bailiffs, a town-clerk, and other officers. It sends one member to parliament.

As the weather would not permit us to reach the summit of *Snowdon*, I shall copy the description of that mountain from the journal of a curious modern traveller †.

" I passed my evening (says my author) at a very good inn at *Caernarvon*; and, having procured an intelligent guide, returned early next morning through *Bettus* to the foot of *Snowdon*. Having left my horses at a small hut, and hired a mountaineer to carry some cordials and provisions, with a spiked stick, but imprudently without nails in my shoes, about ten o'clock I began to ascend the mountain. The two first miles were rather boggy and disagreeable; but, when the prospect opened, I soon forgot all difficulties. In the course of the two last, I passed by six precipices, which I believe were very formidable;

* In the *London Magazine* for *March*, 1774, is a drawing of the cradle in which *Edward II.* was rocked, and is a curious piece of antiquity.

† *Cradock's Account* of some of the most romantic parts of *North-Wales*. Published in 1777.

but as I was near the brink, and the wind very high, I did not venture to examine them too narrowly.

"On the summit, which is a plain about six yards in circumference, the air was perfectly mild and serene, and I could with pleasure contemplate the amazing map that was unfolded to my view. From hence may be distinctly seen, *Wicklow hills in Ireland, the Isle of Man, Cumberland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Shropshire, and part of Scotland*; all the counties of *North-Wales, the Isle of Anglesea*; rivers, plains, woods, rocks, and mountains, six-and-twenty lakes, and two seas. It is doubted, whether there is another circular prospect so extensive in any part of the terraqueous globe. Who could take such a survey, without perceiving his spirits elevated in some proportion to the height? Who could behold so bountiful a display of nature, without wonder and extacy? Who but must feel even a degree of pride, from having gained an eminence, from which he could with ease overlook the *nest of the eagle, and the nest of the hawk* *?

"But as the level walks of life are best suited to the generality of mankind, it became necessary to consider, that this was no spot where I could probably make any lasting abode, and that the return would be attended with at least as much difficulty as the ascent. Having descended a mile or two, I did not think it amiss to enquire about an exhausted mine that I saw at a distance; and I could make this enquiry with the better grace, as the guides had hitherto wondered at my prowess. The mine, I was informed, was only copper; and happy was it for the *Welsh*, that their mines did not consist of choicer metals: Had they been cursed with either gold or silver, foreign nations, long since, in the name of

* *Moel Guidon, and Moel Hapock, two mountains near Snowden, mentioned by Lord Lyttelton.*

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the God of peace, and under pretence of teaching them an immaculate religion *, had laid waste their country, and murdered its inhabitants."

Whoever travels critically over these mountains of *South Wales* and *Merionethshire*, will think *Stone-henge* in *Wiltshire*, and *Rollrich* stones in *Oxfordshire*, no more wonders, seeing there are so many such in these provinces, that they are not thought strange at all; nor is it doubted, but they were generally monuments of the dead; as also are the single stones of immense bulk, of which we saw so many, that we gave over remarking them. Some measured from seven, eight, to ten, and one 16 feet high, being a whole stone, but so large, that the most of the wonder is, where they were found, and how dragged to the place; since, besides the steep ascents to some of the hills on which they stand, it would be hardly possible to move some of them now with 50 yoke of oxen. And yet a great many of these stones are found confusedly lying one upon another on the utmost summit or top of the *Glyder*, and other hills in *Merioneth* or *Caernarvonshire*; to which it is next to impossible that all the power of art, and strength of man and beast, could carry them; and the vulgar make no difficulty of saying, the devil sent them up there.

One of these monumental stones is to be seen a little way from *Harleigh Castle*: it is a large stone lying flat, supported by three other stones at three of the four angles, though the stone is rather oval than square; it is almost 11 feet long, the breadth unequal; but in some places it is from seven to eight feet broad, and it may be supposed has been both longer and broader; it is in some places about two feet thick, but in others

* "The Spaniards made the Gospel an excuse for all the barbarities they committed in the conquest of *Peru*; and when they plundered the rich mines of *Potosi*, they frequently (says *Las Casas*) erected gibbets all over the country, and hung up twelve poor wretches at a time, in honour of the twelve apostles."

it is worn almost to an edge by Time. The three stones that support it are about 20 inches square; it is supposed there have been four, two of which, that support the thickest end, are near eight feet high, the other not above three feet, being supposed to be settled in the ground, so that the stone lies sloping, like the roof of a barn. There is another of these to be seen in the isle of *Anglesea*; the flat stone is much larger and thicker than this; but we did not go to see it. There are also two circles of stones in that island, such as *Stone-henge*, but larger.

This is a particular kind of monument, and therefore I took notice of it; but the others are generally single stones of vast magnitude, set up on one end, column-wise, which, being so very large, are likely to remain till the end of Time: but are generally without any inscription, or regular shape, or any mark to intimate for whom, or for what, they were placed.

These mountains are indeed so like the *Alps*, that, except the language of the people, one could hardly avoid thinking he is passing from *Grenoble* to *Susa*, or rather through the country of the *Grisons*. The lakes also, which are so numerous here, make the similitude the greater: nor are the fables which the country-people tell of those lakes much unlike the stories which we meet with among the *Switzers*, of the famous lakes in their country. Mr. *Camden's* continuator tells us of 50 or 60 lakes in *Caernarvonshire* only. We did not count them; but I believe if we had, we should have found them to be more, rather than less.

Here we meet with the char-fish, the same kind which we saw in *Lancashire*, and also in the lakes of *Switzerland*, and no-where else, that I have heard of, in *Europe*. The *Welsh* call it the *Red Belley*.

In a large lake in this county, called by the inhabitants *Llyn Tegid*, there is a fish taken called *Gwyniad*, or fresh-water whiting, which is not found

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in any other water in *Britain*, but is also common in the lake of *Geneva*, and some others in *Switzerland*. This fish greatly resembles a whiting in its outward appearance, but the inside is more like an herring. The river *Dee*, which rises above this lake, runs through it; yet, it is very remarkable, none of these fish are ever found in the river; and, on the contrary, neither trout nor salmon are ever seen in this lake; yet the river on both sides abounds with them.

From *Caernarvonshire*, we crossed over the *Menai*, into the island of *Anglesea*: it is called the river *Menai*, though in fact it is an arm of the sea, separating *Anglesea* from *Caernarvonshire*. In the narrowest part, it is about the same breadth as the *Thames* at *Westminster* bridge. The principal town in the island is *Beaumaris*, which sends one member to parliament: a fine green lawn before the town, from whence we have a charming prospect of the *Caernarvonshire* mountains, with a haven of the sea, renders this place delightful. The town is in a declining condition. Before *Liverpool* became so great a mart, this place carried on a considerable trade, which it has now entirely lost. It consists of two or three good streets, better built than most of the *Welsh* towns. The castle is not to be compared to those of *Caernarvon* and *Conway* for beauty, though perhaps not inferior in point of strength.

Baron-hill, the seat of the late Lord *Bulkeley*, is situated on an eminence, about half a mile distant from the town. It commands an extensive and very beautiful prospect. The house is not to be admired; but I prefer the situation to any I have seen in *Wales*.

From *Beaumaris*, we travelled through the whole extent of the country, till we came to *Holy-Head*, which stands on a promontory, in the remotest corner of the island. This little town is a sea-port, where the *Dublin* packets are stationed: it is a place

of considerable resort, populous, and in a flourishing state.

We had a very unpleasant journey from *Beaumaris* to this place. The roads were exceeding deep; our horses sunk into the clay, so that it was with the utmost difficulty we travelled. During the whole day's journey, we scarce saw a tree, or a gentleman's seat. The face of the country affords a disagreeable and melancholy prospect, though the land is said to be rich and fertile.

Curiosity induced me to view the seat of the ancient *British* Princes, *Aberfrew*; but my expectations were sadly disappointed. It is a little country village, without any remains of grandeur, or monuments of antiquity, that I could discern.

From *Aberfrew* we crossed the sands, and came to a corporation town called *Newborough*. This place had a right of returning a member to parliament, which they lost some years since: it seems to be a very poor place.

The last place we visited in the island of *Anglesea*, was the seat of Sir *Nicholas Bayly*: it is built in the *Gothic* stile, with great elegance and taste; its situation on the banks of the *Menai*, with a prospect of the mountains at a distance, renders it the admiration of all who see it. The sacred monuments of druidical antiquity, surrounded with the thick embowering shades of venerable oaks, render this place the seat of contemplation.

We then crossed the *Menai*, and came to *Bangor*, at the place where King *Edward I.* intended to have built a great stone bridge: but though the King was very positive in his design for a great while, yet he was prevailed with at last to decline it; possibly on account of the expence.

Bangor is a town noted for its antiquity. It is a Bishop's see, but has an old, mean-looking, and almost despicable, cathedral church.

This church boasts of being one of the most ancient in *Britain*, the people say, the most ancient; and that *St. Daniel* (to whom it was dedicated) was first Bishop here, in the year 512. They allow that the pagans, perhaps of *Anglesea*, ruined the church, and possessed the bishoprick after it was built, for above 100 years; nor is there any account of it from the year 512 to 1009. After this, the bishoprick was again ruined by one of its own Bishops, whose name was *Bulkeley*: he, as the *Monasticon* says, not only sold the revenues, but even the very bells; for which sacrilege, it is said, he was struck blind.

It is certainly at present no rich bishoprick; yet the Bishops are generally allowed to hold some other good benefice in *commendam*; and are generally translated from hence to a more profitable see.

From *Bangor* we went north (keeping the sea on our left-hand) to *Conway*, or *Aber-Conway*. *Conway* castle was built by *Edward I.* and is the admiration of all that see it: for situation, elegance, strength, and grandeur, it is perhaps unrivalled, in *Wales* at least: it is situated on a high rock above the sea, and moated on the land side. There are ten round towers in the castle, and four turrets that are considerably higher than the towers. The walls are battlemented, and are from twelve to fifteen feet in breadth. On entering the castle, you are struck with the view of a grand arched hall, with handsome niched windows: this hall is entire; it is 100 feet long, 30 high, and as many wide, and the roof is supported by nine stone arches. The external part of the castle remains entire, except one tower, which has tumbled into the sea, by one part of the rock giving way. On one side of the castle is a high hill, covered with a fine coppice of wood; on the other you have a prospect over the river of some considerable seats, which make a beautiful appearance. The whole town is surrounded by a wall;

and so strongly fortified was this place, that before the invention of cannon, it must have been impregnable.

The town of *Llanrwst* is about twelve miles distant from *Conway*: the road to it leads through a beautiful little vale, environed by mountains that scale the heavens. This town contains nothing remarkable, except a bridge built by *Inigo Jones*; this place claims the honour of giving birth to him, and the elegant structure of the bridge leaves us no room to doubt the masterly hand of the architect.

From *Conway* we passed over that stupendous rock called *Penmaenmawr*. The road passes along the side of the mountain: both beneath and above the road there are horrid precipices, with fragments of rocks impending over the terrified traveller. Such roads appear tremendous to one who has been used to travel a level country; but the inhabitants make nothing of riding on the very brink of a precipice. After a thaw of snow, or a heavy fall of rain, the loose rocks sometimes give way, and roll with convulsive ruin into the sea, carrying with them the wall built for the traveller's security: a considerable part of this wall was thrown down when we passed. A new road has been made on the side of this mountain, with great art and ingenuity, which claims the gratitude and admiration of travellers. The public are indebted to Mr. *Silvester* for this work of labour and art, which perhaps equals any thing of the kind in *Europe*.

Pursuing our journey, we arrived at *Denbigh*, the county town, which sends one member to parliament: it is situated upon a fine eminence, on which arise the turrets of a majestic castle; it is in ruins, but the very ruins are venerable: great part of the hall is still standing, which the rude inhabitants mistake for the ruins of a church: the remains of the

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the hall give the traveller an idea of the grandeur of the place.

The prospect from the castle is most enchanting : beneath, the vale of *Clwyd* displays her bosom, profusely gay to the admiring spectator. The banks of the river *Clwyd* are decorated with seats, the towns of *Rhythin* and *St. Asaph*, with the mountains rising at a distance, form a most delightful view.

From hence we made an excursion to *Rhythin*, a neat and pleasant town, situate on the banks of the river *Clwyd*, about five miles south-east of *Denbigh*. Here is a good corn-market on *Mondays*. The free-school is a handsome building, and was well endowed by *Gabriel Goodman*, Dean of *Westminster*, born at *Llanbrychan* near this town.

This town is more populous and opulent than *Denbigh*; but in point of situation is far inferior. There are here the ruins of a castle, but so much defaced by the hand of time, that nothing can be discerned to attract the notice of a traveller. This town bears something in its countenance of its neighbourhood to *England*; but that which was most surprising after such a tiresome and fatiguing journey over the inhospitable mountains of *Merioneth* and *Caernarvonshire*, was, that, descending now from the hills, we came into a most pleasant, fruitful, populous, and delicious vale, called *The vale of Clwyd*, from the river of the same name, full of villages and towns, the fields shining with corn, just ready for the reapers, the meadows green and flowery, and a fine river, of a mild and gentle stream, running through it : nor is it a small or casual intermission, for we had a prospect of the country open before us for above 20 miles in length, and from five to seven miles in breadth, all smiling with the same kind of complexion; which made us think ourselves in *England* again, by the agreeable change of climate.

In this pleasant vale, turning north from *Denbigh*,
we

we entered *Flintshire*, the smallest of the twelve *Welsh* counties. Its northern side is washed by the river *Dee*, and the land rises suddenly from the shore in fine inequalities, clayey, and fruitful in corn and grass, for near four miles, to a mountainous tract that runs parallel to it for a considerable way. The lower part is divided by picturesque dingles, which run from the mountains, and open to the sea, filled with oaks. The inferior part abound with coal and freestone; the upper with minerals of lead and calamine, and immense strata of limestone and chert. The principal trade of the county is mining and smelting.

The northern part of the county is flat, and very rich in corn, especially wheat, which is generally exported to *Liverpool*. The shire, in most places, raises more than is sufficient for the use of the inhabitants. It is extremely populous, and in the mineral parts composed of a mixed people, whose fathers and grandfathers had resorted here for the sake of employ out of the *English* mine counties, many of whose children, born of *Welsh* mothers, have quite lost the language of their fathers.

A lofty range of mountains rise on the west, and form a bold frontier. This county is watered by several small rivers, such as the *Allen*, the *Terrig*, and the *Wheeler*; part of its western boundary by the *Chwyd*; and *Maelwr*, a disjointed part of the county, by the *Dee* *.

The first town we came to was *St. Asaph*, a small city, with a very good cathedral church covered with tiles; but yet here is esteemed a stately fabric. The city is ill built and poor, although the country is so rich and pleasant all round it, and the bishoprick of good value. There are some old monuments in this church, but none of any note; nor could we read the *Welsh* inscriptions.

* See Pennant's *Tour in Wales*.

The road to St. *Wenefred's* well is remarkably picturesque, along a little valley, bounded on one side by hanging woods, beneath which the stream hurries towards the sea, unless where interrupted by the frequent manufactories: its origin is discovered at the foot of a steep hill, beneath the town of *Holywell*, to which it gave the name. The spring boils with vast impetuosity out of a rock, and is formed into a beautiful polygonal well covered by a rich arch supported by pillars. The roof is most exquisitely carved in stone. Immediately over the fountain is the legend of St. *Wenefrede*, on a pendant projection, with the arms of *England* at the bottom: numbers of fine ribs secure the arch, whose inter-sections are coupled with some sculpture.

There are two different opinions about the origin of this stream: one party make it miraculous, the other assert it to be owing to natural causes. The advocates for the first deliver their ridiculous tale thus.

In the seventh century lived a virgin of the name of *Wenefrede*, who was put under the care of her uncle *Bueno*, who had assumed a monastic habit, and erected a church here: a neighbouring Prince was struck with her beauty, and at all events determined to gratify his desires. He made known his passion to the lady, who, affected with horror, attempted to escape. The wretch, enraged at the disappointment, instantly pursued her, drew out his sabre, and cut off her head. He instantly received the reward of his crime; he fell down dead, and the earth opening, swallowed his impious corpse.

The severed head took its way down the hill, and stopped near the church. The valley, which from its uncommon dryness was heretofore called *Sychuant*, now lost its name. A spring of uncommon size burst from the place where the head rested. The moss on its sides diffused a fragrant smell; her blood spotted

spotted the stones, which, like the flowers of *Adonis*, annually commemorate the fact, by assuming a colour unknown to them before *.

St. *Bueno* took up the head, carried it to the corpse, and, offering up his devotions, joined it nicely to the body, which instantly reunited. The place was visible only by a slender white line encircling her neck, in memory of a miracle, which surpassed far that worked by St. *Dionysius*, who marched in triumph after decapitation, with his head in his hands, from *Mont matre* to St. *Dennis's* †, or that of St. *Adelbertus*, who, in like circumstances, swam across the *Vistula*. St. *Wenefrede* survived her decollation fifteen years.

She died at *Gwytherin* in *Denbighshire*, where her bones rested till the reign of King *Stephen*, when, after divine admonition, they were surrendered to the abbey of St. *Peter* and St. *Paul* at *Shrewsbury*. The memory of the two great events, that of her first death is celebrated on the 22d of *June*, that of her translation on the 3d of *November*.

A bell belonging to the church was also christened in honour of her. I cannot learn the names of the gossips, who, as usual, were undoubtedly rich persons. On the ceremony, they all laid hold of the rope, bestowed a name on the bell, and the priest sprinkled it with holy water, in the name of the Father, &c. &c. ‡. He then clothed it with a fine garment; after this the gossips gave a grand feast, and made great presents, which the priest received in behalf of the bell. Thus blessed, it was endowed with great powers, allayed, on being rung, all storms, diverted the thunder-bolt, and drove away evil spirits.

“ After her death, her sanctity (says her histo-

* See Pennant's Tour in Wales; also, the Life of St. *Wenefrede*.

† Histoire de l'Abbaye de St. *Denys*, 76.

‡ Staveland's Hist. of Churches, 139.

rian) was proved by numberless miracles. The waters are almost as sanative as those of the pool of *Bethesda*: all infirmities incident to the human body met with relief; the votive crutches, the barrows, and other proofs of cures, to this moment remain as evidences pendent over the well." The Saint is equally propitious to Protestants and Catholics; for among the offerings are to be found these grateful testimonies from the patients of each religion. The waters are indisputably endowed with every good quality attendant on cold baths, and multitudes have here experienced the good effects that thus result from natural qualities.

The resort of pilgrims of late years to these *Fontanalia* has considerably decreased; the greatest number are from *Lancashire*. In the summer, still a few are to be seen in the water in deep devotion up to their chins for hours, sending up their prayers, or performing a number of evolutions round the polygonal well, or threading the arch between well and well a prescribed number of times. Few people of rank at present honour the fountain with their presence. A crowned head in the last age dignified the place with a visit. The Prince who lost three kingdoms for a mass, paid his respects, on *August 29, 1686*, to our Saint, and received as a reward a present of the very shift in which his great grandmother *Mary Stuart* lost her head*.

The spring is certainly one of the finest in these kingdoms; and, by the two different trials and calculations lately made for the information of Mr. *Pennant*, is found to sling out about twenty-one tons of water in a minute. It never freezes, or scarcely varies in the quantity of water, in droughts or after the greatest rains. After a violent fall of wet, it becomes discoloured by a wheyey tinge. The

* The late Dr. Cooper of *Chester's MSS.*

stream formed by this fountain runs with a rapid course to the sea, which it reaches in little more than a mile's distance: the industry of this century has made its waters of much commercial utility. The principal works on it at this time are battering mills for copper, a wire mill, coarse paper mill, snuff mill, a foundery for brass, and at this time a cotton manufactory is establishing, the success of which will be of infinite advantage to the neighbourhood.

The town of *Holywell* was very inconsiderable till the beginning of this century; the houses few, and those for the most part thatched, the streets unpaved, and the place destitute of a market; but the town now contains upwards of 2000 inhabitants: it has a weekly market, and a grant for three fairs, but these never could be established.

The situation of the town is pleasant and healthy. On the back is a lofty hill, at times extremely productive of lead ore. Towards the sea is a pretty valley, bounded by woods: the end finishes on one side with the venerable abbey.

Several catholic priests attend here under various disguises, but nobody takes notice of them, as to their religion, though they are well known, no not the *Roman-catholics* themselves; but in private they have their proper oratories in certain places, whether the votaries resort; and good manners have prevailed so far, that no Protestant, let him know what he will, takes notice of it, or inquires whither one goes, or has been gone *.

* This toleration has been censured by some Protestants; but surely with great impropriety. Should the *Romanists* drive our clergy from *Aix* or the *Spa*, we should certainly think, that they deserved to lose such salubrious streams, which ought to be considered as places made for the common relief of our infirmities, and therefore very properly allowed by all parties to be neutral and undisturbed, even while the horrors of war rage all around. The *Roman Catholics*, indeed, are numerous in this part of *Wales*, which is the least enlightened of any in the principality; but the *Romish* persuasion is now every day giving ground to that of Methodism.

The

The principal towns in *Flintshire*, are, 1. *Flint*, the shire-town, but so small, that it has not a market. It stands on the *Æstuary* of the *Dee*, and has a small harbour, and is governed by a mayor, &c. 2. *St. Asaph*, before-mentioned. 3. *Caerwys*, the chief market-town of the county.

From hence we passed by *Flint-Castle*, a known place, but of no consequence now; and directly to *Wrexham* †, deemed the largest town in *North-Wales*, having heard much of a fine church there; but we were greatly disappointed. There is indeed a very large tower or steeple, as some call it, adorned with imagery; but far from fine: the work is mean, the statues without any fancy or spirit; and as the stone is of a reddish, crumbling kind, like the cathedral at *Chester*, Time has made it look gross and tough.

There are a great many ancient monuments in this church, and in the church-yard also, but none of note; and almost all the inscriptions are in *Welsh*. The church is large; but they must be much mistaken, who tell us it is one of the finest in *Britain*; for it falls short in that respect, even of those churches which are as old as itself.

This town is large, well built, and populous; and besides the church, there are two large meeting-houses, in one of which they preach in *Welsh*, one part of the day, and in *English* the other; which is the case in *Caermarthen*, and some other places in *Wales*. Here is a great market for coarse linens and for flannel, which the factors buy up of the poor *Welsh* people, who manufacture it, and thence it is sent to *London*; and is a considerable manufacture through all this

† The parish is now noted for a manufactory of instruments of war; but altered for those of offence, instead of defence. Near this place is a foundery for cannon, under the direction of Mr. *Wilkinson*, who supplies many parts of *Europe* with this *ratio ultima regum*; and in the late war between the *Russians* and *Turks*, furnished both parties with this species of logic. *Pennant's Tour in Wales*, p. 292.

part of the country, by which the poor are profitably employed.

From *Wrexham* we made an excursion to *Gresford*, and on our road called at *Acton*, the seat of *Ellis Yonge, Esq.* This place was formerly the property of the *Jefferies*, a race that, after running from an uncontaminated stock, had the disgrace of producing in the last century *George Jefferies*, Chancellor of *England*, a man of first rate abilities in his profession, but of a heart subservient to the worst of actions.

Gresford lies about two miles farther. The church is situated on the brow of a lofty eminence, over a beautiful little valley, whose end opens into the vast expanse of the vale royal of *Cheshire*, and exhibits a view of uncommon elegance.

At the extremity of the lofty slope that impends over the plain, and affords an almost boundless view to the north and north-east, is a peninsulated field, called the *Rofts*, which formed, in old times, a *British* post. It is defended by three strong dikes and fosses, cut across the narrow isthmus that connects it to the higher parts of the parish. On two sides it is inaccessible, by reason of the steepness of the declivity; and on the south, which fronts *Cheshire*, and is of easier ascent, had been protected by two or three other ditches, now almost levelled by the plough. In one corner of this post is a vast exploratory mount: this seems to have been an important station, an outguard to the country against invaders, which made an artificial elevation quite necessary, in order to observe the motions of an enemy.

We could not omit seeing the once famous *Bangor*, which *Malmshury* confounds with the episcopal *Bangor*, and were pleased to see there a fine stone bridge over the *Dee*. This was once a city, and the monastery was so famous, that in the time of the *British* Kings

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it was said to contain 2400 monks, who in their turns (*viz.* 100 each hour of the 24) reading prayers and singing psalms continually, divine service was performed day and night without intermission. But now not so much as the ruins are to be seen; and as all the people in the little village, that takes place of it, spoke *Welsh*, we could find nobody that could give us any intelligence. So effectually had time erased the very foundations of the place.

This is said to be the birth-place of *Pelagius*, who from hence began to broach his heretical opinions, which afterwards so terribly overspread the church. The parish is about four miles in length, and about the same in breadth. The face of the country is generally level, and the soil in some parts a deep clay, and in others dry and sandy. They produce wheat, barley, oats, peas, and beans, and considerable quantities of cheese are made there. Coal and turf are the chief fuel, and the latter is dug up in considerable quantities. The chief commons in the parish are the *Fenns*, and *Stimney-heath*, the *Rouree*, and *Tallum green*. The principal waters are *Hanner* and *Llanbeddnith Meres*, the former of which is well stocked with eels, pike, perch, dace; and the country affords great diversion to the inhabitants in hares and partridges. The church stands in the hundred of *Maytor*, and the diocese of *Chester*, and is dedicated to *St. Chad*, Bishop of *Litchfield*, having a clock and four bells.

Before I have entirely done with the principality, give me leave to observe briefly a few things with relation to this journey, and the gentlemen of *Wales*.

Though this journey, and especially over such monstrous hills and precipices, as those in *Merioneth* and some other shires, was a little heavy to us, yet were we well supported through it; for we generally found their provisions very good and cheap, and pretty good accommodations in the inns.

The

The *Welsh* gentlemen are hospitable; and the people in general obliging and conversable, especially to strangers. When we let them know we travelled merely in curiosity to view the country, their civility was heightened to such a degree, that nothing could be more friendly; and they were willing to tell us every thing that belonged to their country, and to shew us all that we desired to see.

They value themselves much upon their ancient heroes, as *Caractacus*, *Owen ap Tudor*, Prince *Lewellin*; and particularly upon the antiquity of their families; and laugh at a pedigree that cannot be traced higher than *William I.* * It must be owned, that the gentlemen of *Wales* justly claim a very ancient descent, and have preserved their families entire for many ages. They receive you well into their houses, treat you handsomely, are very generous; and, indeed, nothing is wanting within doors; and, what is more, they have generally very good estates to support their hospitality; but they are very jealous of affronts, and soon provoked to anger, which is seldom allayed without satisfaction; and then they become as soon reconciled again.

* This foible is equally prevalent in *Germany*. It is not uncommon to hear a gentleman there consider the *French King* hardly as a gentleman, in point of ancestry.

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L E T T E R VII.

Containing a description of part of C H E S H I R E, SHROPSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE, WARWICKSHIRE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, and LEICESTERSHIRE.

I Continued at *Chester* for some time, except that I made two or three excursions into the neighbouring country, and particularly into that part of *Shropshire* which I had not viewed as I went; as also into the north, and north-west parts of *Cheshire*. But I should first acquaint you, that *Malpas*, through which I came from *Wales*, is situate on an high hill, and was formerly strengthened by a castle, which is now in ruins. The church is a stately building, and stands on the most eminent part of the town: it has two rectors, who do duty alternately. The town consists of three streets, and is well paved; has a good market, a grammar-school, and an hospital.

The first trip I made, was into the *Cestrica Chersonesus*, as I think we may properly call it: it is bounded by the two great friths, or arms of the sea, the one called the mouth of the *Dee*, and the other of the two rivers *Mersey* and *Weaver*, which form it into a peninsula. It is about 16 miles long, 6 or 7 over, and has not one market-town in it, though it is exceeding rich and fertile; occasioned possibly by the neighbourhood of two such great towns as *Chester* and *Liverpool*.

Going down from *Chester*, by the *Rhoo-dee*, as they call it, that is, the marshes of the river *Dee*, and coasting the river after it is grown broader than the marshes, the first place of any note which we come to is *Nesson*; from hence the vessels go away to *Highlake*,

lake, where they ride safe in their way, as the ships from *London* lie in the *Downs*, till the wind presents for their respective voyages.

The river *Dee*, after a course of between 50 and 60 miles, falls into *St. George's* channel, 16 miles below the city of *Chester*. This river at its mouth is 16 miles broad; and would afford *Chester* a noted port, if it was not for the bar at the entrance, which renders it difficult: *Chester*, however, beyond all doubt, is a fine old city; and from its communication with a very fertile country behind it, and its intercourse with *Ireland* and *Wales*, maintains a very considerable trade; which is lately much promoted by a new navigable cut; which, however, they were not allowed to join to the main canal.

Chester was a colony of the *Romans*; and many antiquities have been found in it: nay, it is evident from the inscription of several altars and coins found in and about this city, that the *Legio XX.* called *Victrix*, was here quartered. The walls are the only entire specimen of ancient fortification now in *Great Britain*: they are a mile and three quarters, and a hundred and one yards in circumference, affording a delightful walk round, and said to be built by the noble *Mercian* lady *Edelfleda*, in the year 908. It has eight churches, (*viz.* *St. John's*, built above 1100 years since; *St. Michael's*, *St. Bridget's*, *St. Olave's*, *St. Mary's*, *St. Martin's*, *Trinity*, and *St. Peter's*. Also a parish church in the south-cross of the cathedral, *viz.* *St. Oswald's*, and the chapel of *St. John*, in the blue-boy hospital) besides the cathedral, dedicated to *St. Werburg*, which is a pile venerable for antiquity, being repaired about 10 years since, is very handsome and neat. There are shadows of many pictures on the wall, but defaced. At the west-end, in niches are some images of the Earls palatine of *Chester*. The adjoining abbey is quite ruined. The exchange is a neat building, supported by columns 13 feet high.

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of one stone each. Over it is the city-hall, a well contrived court of judicature. The castle was formerly the palace, where the Earls assembled their parliaments, and enacted laws independent of the Kings of *England*, determining all causes themselves. It has always a garrison kept in it. The piazzas, or *Rows*, as they call them, do not, in my opinion, add any thing to the beauty of the city; but, on the contrary, serve to make it look both old and indifferent. These *Rows* are certain long galleries, up one pair of stairs, which run along the side of the streets, before all the houses, though joined to them; and, as is pretended, they are to keep the people dry in walking along. This they do indeed effectually; but then they take away all the view of the houses from the street; nor can a stranger, in his riding through *Chester*, see any shops in the city: besides, they make the shops themselves dark; and the way in them is dark, dirty, and uneven. *Chester* sends two members to parliament, and is governed by a mayor, recorder, 24 aldermen, two sheriffs, 40 common-councilmen, &c. and the corporation have power of life and death. It is said now to contain 20,000 inhabitants, who are polite and agreeable: and is the great mart of *North-Wales*, from whence it is chiefly supplied with provisions and servants. The market is kept on *Wednesday* and *Saturday*. Here are also three fairs; the last *Thursday* in *February* for cattle; *July* 5, and *October* 10, for cattle, cloth, hardware, hops, and *Manchester* goods.

The best ornament of the city is, that the streets are broad and good, and run through it in strait lines, crossing in the middle of it, as at *Chichester*. From the walls you may see the circumjacent country, and particularly on the side of the *Rhodee*, which is a fine large low green, on the bank of the *Dee*, where the horse races are run, which in winter is often under water by the inundations of the river. Beyond the

Rhoodee may be seen from the walls of *Chester* the county of *Flint*, and its castle, with some other castles, and the mountains of *Wales*.

The castle is a good firm building, and strong, though not fortified with many outworks. It is said this castle was built, or at least repaired, by *Hugh Lupus*, the famous Earl of *Chester*, nephew to *William I.* as was also the church; the body of whom was, in the year 1523 discovered, as is supposed, in an old ruinous building, called, The Chapter-house.

It was first wrapped in leather, and then inclosed in a stone coffin. The skull and all the bones were very fresh, and in their proper position; and, what is more remarkable, the string which tied the ankles together was whole and entire, although it was then upwards of 650 years since the interment. The castle has a governor, lieutenant-governor, a master-gunner, store-keeper, and furbisher of small arms. There is a stately hall adorned with pictures, where the palatine courts and assizes are held. There are also offices for records, and a prison for the county.

Chester is but a modern bishoprick, being so made in the year 1541, when King *Henry VIII.* divided it from *Litchfield*. They tell us, that King *Edgar*, who conquered all this part of *Britain*, and was rowed up the *Dee*, in his royal barge, by seven, or, as some say, eight Kings, himself steering the helm, founded the great church, which *Lupus* finished and endowed.

Here is a noble stone bridge over the *Dee*, very high and strong built; and it is needful it should be so; for the *Dee* is a most furious stream at some seasons, and brings a vast weight of water with it from the mountains of *Wales*.

Chester has long given title of Earl to the Princes of *Wales*.

This county, though so remote from *London*, is one of those which contributes much to its support, as well as to that of several other parts of *England*.

by its excellent cheefe. I am told, from very good authority, the city of *London* alone takes off 14,000 tons every year; besides vast quantities which are sent to *Bristol* and *York*, and also to *Scotland*, *Ireland*, and the *Indies*. Great quantities of this sort of thick cheefe are made in such parts of *Shropshire*, *Staffordshire*, and *Lancashire*, as border upon *Cheshire*.

This soil is extraordinarily good, and the grass has a peculiar richness in it, which disposes the kine to give a great quantity of very sweet and good milk; this raises the value of the lands.

While we were stationed, as I may say, at *Chester*, I made a trip to several places round it; and particularly to *Eaton-hall*, the fine seat of Lord *Grosvenor*, and the spacious forest of *Delamere*. They say here was formerly an old city, now called the *Chamber on the Forest*, probably some fort or camp to secure the road. From hence is so fine a prospect of the *Welsh* mountains, that I never before beheld such a noble scene of nature.

There was lately a very fair prospect of adding much to the trade of this city by an inland navigation, which was begun with great spirit a few years ago. It was to run through the county beneath *Bresson* castle, and to terminate near *Middlewich*. Another branch was to extend to *Namptwich*. One mouth opens into the *Dee*, below the water-tower. A fine canal is formed, into which the boats are to descend, by means of five successive locks, beneath the north-wall of the city, cut in the live rock. A few miles of this design are completed; but, by an unhappy miscalculation of expence, and by unforeseen difficulties arising in the execution, such enormous charges were incurred, as to put a stop for the present to all proceedings. The other branch, which was to extend towards *Middlewich*, was to end within a limited distance from the great canal between the *Dee* and the *Mersey* navigation. The great objects

were the salt and cheefe trade, and coal for the supply of the interior parts of *Cheshire*, from the vast collieries in *Staffordshire*. A share also in the exportation of hard-ware, earthen-ware, and all the internal part of the kingdom within its reach, might have been reasonably expected.

The idea of a canal along the dead flat between *Chester* and *Ince* has been long since conceived, by persons very conversant in the nature of the trade of this city. One mouth might have opened into the river *Dee*, in the place of the present; another near *Ince*, which would create a ready intercourse with *Liverpool*, the *Weaver*, and the salt-works, and great dairies on that river; with *Warrington*, and with the flourishing town of *Manchester*, and a numerous set of places within reach of the *Mersey*, and of the canal belonging to that useful peer, the Duke of *Bridgewater*, to which the greatest of our inland navigations is connected. This little cut the city might, and still may, enjoy unenvied, unrivalled; and what is a material consideration, the distance is trifling*, the expences small, and the profits to the undertakers great.

Frodsham was formerly noted for its castle, the seat of the family of the *Savages*, which however is but a mean market-town, consisting of one long street. The church stands on a lofty hill, called *Frodsham-Hill*, the highest in the county. Here is a stone bridge over the *Weaver*. Near this place is also the famous seat of *Rock-Savage*, built on the ascent of an hill belonging to the same family, whereof the last was the late Earl *Rivers*.

From *Chester* we kept directly on east to *Middlewich*, a market-town, governed by a mayor, &c. with a spacious church, but chiefly noted for making salt, where are two excellent brine-seeths. Near

* Only seven miles, according to *Burder's* map.

this town is *Bosstock*, the seat of *Edward Tomkinson, Esq*;

There is a college on the south side of the church, founded by *Thomas Savage*, archbishop of *York*: Also an oratory founded by the *Leighs* of *Lime*, and a free-school.

We followed the *Weaver* directly north to *Northwich*, also famous for brine-springs, and where I saw the manner of making salt. The brine-pit, or salt-spring, is near to the bank of the river; thence they pump up the water, which is by troughs conveyed into the pans, where it is evaporated by boiling. The salt, after its chrySTALLIZING, falls to the bottom, and they take it out by wooden scummers, and put it in frails, or wicker-baskets, of a conic form, and set it in a warm room behind the furnace, to drain and dry. The salt is very white. I did not enquire, whether they made use of ox's blood, as they do who make salt of sea-water. The duty it brings is very considerable.

Within these 70 years, on the south side of the town, they discovered a great many mines of rock-salt, which they continually dig up, and send in great lumps to the maritime ports, where it is dissolved by sea-water, and made into eating salt. We were let down by a bucket 150 feet deep to the bottom of the salt-quarry, a most pleasant subterraneous prospect, looking like a cathedral supported by rows of pillars, its roof of crystal, all of the same rock, transparent and glittering from the numerous candles of the workmen, labouring with their steel pick-axes in digging it away. This rock-work extends to several acres.

At *Lawton* they bore 60 yards deep for the salt-spring; at *Hassal* 47; at *Wheelock* 18; about *Middlewich* less; at *Northwich* it rises to open day; which seems to intimate, that the salt-spring runs between layers of the earth in an horizontal line. Upon boring,

boring, it rises with great impetuosity, so that the workmen have scarce time to get out of the wells. This is all along the side of a brook that comes from a remarkable hill called *Mawcop*, upon the edge of *Staffordshire*; so that the ground rises above the true level in the mentioned proportion. Upon the *Cheshire* side of this hill, or mountain, stands the elegant seat of *Richard Wilbrabam Bootle, Esq*; now called *Rhode-Hall*; and about two miles eastward, stands *Lawton-Hall*, which is a fine house belonging to *Robert Lawton, Esq*;

Near this place is *Overton*, a good estate, once the property of *Thomas Lowndes, Esq*; to whom the government gave 7000*l.* for his improvement of the brine-salt of this kingdom. At his death, he left this estate to support the professorship of astronomy at *Cambridge*.

Near *Lawton* are *Thurlwood* salt-works, the property of *Edward Salmon* and *William Pendlington, Esqrs*, who married the co-heiresses of *Richard Lowndes, Esq*; Here the salt-rock is of unknown depth, and rises within 60 yards of the surface of the earth. This salt-work supplies the factories of *Burslem*, *Cobridge*, and the adjacent counties; and, by the inland navigation, bids fair to supply with rock the different salt manufactories of *Europe*.

Northwich has a good church, with a fine roof, and semicircular choir; and also a charity-school, for the education of boys.

From *Northwich* we travelled north-east, and came to *Knutsford*, a good town. It has a market and a sessions-house, with a handsome church; and a silk-mill, built in imitation of those at *Stockport*. Shag velvets are manufactured here, as is the best sowing thread.

We next came to *Altringham*, a market-town, governed by a mayor, of ancient institution. Its church is a mile from the town, and near it is the noble seat called

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called *Dunham Massey*, belonging to the Earl of *Stamford*, in whose park are many stately trees, in which herons yearly build their nests. Having viewed this fine estate, on which are about 100,000 timber trees, we rode to *Cheadle*, where is a rectory of about 500 *l.* a year. Having here seen the water-engine for spinning cotton, we arrived at *Stockport*, which is situate on the river *Mersey*, and is a very large and handsome town, occupying three hills, and the same number of valleys, which are so serpentine as to form many pleasing prospects of churches, pieces of water, &c. with the large silk-mills, belonging to the chief tradesmen of the place. *Stockport* is inhabited by a great number of gentry, and well filled with ware-housemen, who carry on the check, mohair button, and hat manufactories. It is here the raw silk is chiefly thrown and prepared for the *Spitalfields* weavers, by six engines, the buildings of which are of a prodigious bulk, one of them containing above 45,000 movements, which fill the spacious rooms up to the fifth story, and are all put in motion by one wheel, which goes by water. The *Bridgewater* navigation begins here.

The old church is a venerable pile, built of red rock, and within much beautified by some monuments of a rich and worthy family of the name of *Wright*. The rectory is a noble edifice, to which are annexed tythes and glebe-land worth 1500 *l.* per annum; the presentation of which is in the gift of Sir *George Warren*, K. B. a descendant of the Earls of *Surry*. The present incumbent is the Rev. *John Watson*, M. A. and F. A. S. Here is likewise a neat free grammar-school, and a large market on *Fridays*, remarkable for the vast quantities of cheese from hence bought up for exportation. The annual fairs are on the 4th and 25th of *March*, the 1st of *May*, the 23d and 24th days of *October*, new style. In the

market-place stands a conduit, from whence, by means of leaden pipes, the houses are supplied with water, in the same manner as at *London*.

At this place poverty is not much felt, except by those who are idle; for all persons capable of tying knots may find work in the silk-mills, which employ near 2000 persons, and where children of six years old are taught to earn one shilling *per* week, and receive more, as they grow capable of deserving it.

Within the parish of *Stockport* is another parish, called *St. Peter's*, in which is a new church and parsonage-house, built and endowed by the late *William Wright*, Esq; and now in the possession of *Henry Offley Wright*, Esq; who is patron thereof. The present incumbent is the Rev. *Thomas Bentham*, M. A.

In 1745, the bridge over the river *Mersey* was blown up, to delay the progress of the rebels; so that the King's forces, in pursuit of them, were obliged to ford it up to their middles; and the soldiers wives did the same. The bridge was rebuilt in 1746.

From this town we proceeded southwards, and after riding two miles, came to *Bullocks Smithey*, a long village, filled with industrious inhabitants, who are employed in various manufactures; and among them one for spinning cotton, in which a single workman can manage sixty spindles at once. We next passed *Pointon Park*, the most elegant seat of Sir *George Warren*, and came by *Adlington-Hall*, the residence of *Charles Legh*, Esq; whose estate extends about three miles, and has its ring-fence planted with firs. We made an excursion to *Mottram Saint Andrew*, whose fertile pastures produce remarkable good cheese; and on the higher ground stands the superb and elegant seat of *Henry Offley Wright*, Esq; We stopped at *Presbury*, which is a rich village, the large tythes belonging to Mr. *Legh*. In this parish stands

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stands the town of *Macclesfield*, situate in the forest of the same name, a place of great antiquity. It is under the government of a mayor, and enjoys many particular privileges by virtue of the court and liberties of the forest. The old church has a college adjoining to it, in which are buried many of the family of the Earl *Rivers*. Several extensive possessions are in this neighbourhood belonging to Earl *Cholmondeley*. Here is also a good free-school, with many mills for throwing silk and manufacturing cotton, and also a considerable manufacture of mohair buttons. Near this town stand smelting-houses for melting copper ore, in the manner of those at *Warrington*; and at a few miles distance *Alderley-Hall*, the seat of Sir *John Stanley*; *Henbury*, the fine house of Sir *William Meredith*; *Langley-Hall*, the residence of *William Cowes*, Esq; and the upper and lower *Beach*, occupied by *William Brooksbank* and *John Parker Mosley*, Esqrs.

From hence we turned about, and came south-west to *Congleton*, near the borders of *Staffordshire*, where is a silk-mill in the manner of those at *Stockport*, being six stories high, and having 150 large windows on one side of it. Near this place are some mills for working copper wire, which bring great profit to the proprietors. The middle of this town is watered by the little brook *Howly*; the east side by the *Dan*; and the north by the *Dan*. It carries on a considerable trade, partly in gloves and mohair buttons; and though it is governed by a mayor and six aldermen, yet it has only one chapel in it, and that entirely of wood, excepting the choir, and a little tower. It has a very plentiful market.

After passing the *Bollen*, we see on every side in the large forest of *Macclesfield* the pits where they dig turf in squares, like bricks; and in these pits nothing is more common than to see fir-trees buried from 10 to 20 feet deep, which the men who work here, dig up for various uses.

I proceeded to the market-town of *Sandbach*, which is situated on a branch of the *Weaver*. It has a good church, and in the market-place stand two crosses of stone, with the history of *Christ's* passion engraven on them.

Hence we rode to view the noble house, long in the possession of the family of *Carew*; it is elegantly ornamented with various and extensive plantations. We then passed on to *Bostock-House*, remarkable for its moat, and being long the residence of the *Lowndes's*. Adjoining to it is *Hassal-Hall*, the pleasing habitation of *Edward Salmon*, Esq; We continued our journey about five miles further, and came to *Nantwich*, a large town. The church is a noble edifice in the form of a cross, with the steeple rising from the middle; but the maintenance of the minister is small. The inhabitants carry on a good trade in woollen hose, shoes, and gloves. At the end of the town stand the ancient seat and gardens of *Roger Wilbraham*, Esq; and at *Dartford*, which is a mile distant, is another fine old building, having a hall which shews original grandeur, and now belongs to *James Tomkinson*, Esq; It has two charity-schools, one for 40 boys, and another for 30 girls, and a great weekly fair for corn and cattle.

I cannot leave this neighbourhood, without mentioning *Brereton-Hall*, an ancient structure, in the Gothic taste, and the residence of *Charles Holt*, Esq; proprietor of *Bag-Mere*, a large piece of water, famous for the largeness of the pike and perch caught in it.

Thus having made my circuit round the county, I shall go from hence south to *Whitchurch* in *Shropshire*. But I must first note three things of *Cheshire*:
1. That there is no part of *England* where there are so many grand seats of gentlemen who are of ancient

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cient extraction. 2. That it is a county *Palatine**, and has been so for many ages; and its government is distinct from any other, and very particular; it is administered by a chamberlain, a judge special, who is called *Chief Justice of Chester*, a puisny judge, three serjeants at law, a sheriff, an escheator, and all proper and usual subordinate officers; and the jurisdiction of all these offices is kept up and preserved very strictly. 3. That there are many lakes in the county; amongst the most distinguished are, *Combermeer*, *Rostern-meer*, *Mere-meer*, and *Marbury-meer*. A river, or at least a rivulet, runs out of each of them; they are plentifully stored with excellent fish, and their banks supply the richest pasture. Upon the whole, I cannot help thinking with the late Mr. Justice *White*, that this county deserves the title of *The Garden of England*, on account of the number of rivers and rivulets, the quantities of coal, salt, flag clay for making bricks, with iron and marble; and which contribute to make this county, whose fertile soil likewise produces rich grass and plenty of timber, truly delightful.

The first town we came to in *Shropshire*, called *Whitchurch*, is pleasant, large, and populous, and has a very good church, in which is the monument of the great *John Talbot*, first Earl of *Shrewsbury*, who was called in his time the *English Achilles*, and who was so renowned in the wars in *France*, that no man in that kingdom dared to encounter him single handed.

Whitchurch has a good market, and a great many gentry near it, whereof some are *Roman Catholics*. They tell us, that this town, when King *Charles I.*

* It once paid no taxes, as not being represented; but it had its own parliament, and assessed itself.

removed his standard from *Nottingham* to *Shrewsbury*, raised a whole regiment for his service.

From hence we turned south, and passing by *Wem*, the title given by King *James II.* to his wicked lord chancellor *Jefferies* *, thence we came to *Ellesmere*, which gives title of Baron to the Duke of *Bridgewater*.

The country, for the greatest part of the way to *Ellesmere*, is flat, dirty, and unpleasing. On the approach to the town it becomes more agreeable, and about it breaks into most beautiful risings, fertile, and finely wooded. The bottoms are indeed destitute of rivers, but frequently filled with little lakes, called here *Meres*, elegantly bordered by the cultivated hills. It is singular, that none of them are the parents of streams; their increase from rain and springs, and their loss by exhalations, keep such equal pace.

Ellesmere is a town situated on a lake of 101 acres in dimensions, and whose greatest depth is 26 yards. It is well stocked with fish. The environs have two advantages superior to other lakes: a good town borders on one side; the fine park of *Ockle*, or *Otley*, is a great ornament to another. This is the ancient seat of the *Kynastons*. The house appears to be very old, and stands low; but the park is a very fine one, having the greatest quantity of the finest elm-trees perhaps to be seen in any part of *England*. *Ellesmere* water is the property of the Duke of *Bridgewater*.

The town is of *Saxon* origin, and takes its name from the water, which was called *Aelfmere*, or the *greatest mere*, being the chief in this part of the county. The place has little to boast of, except its situation. The principal trade is that of malt, the barley of the neighbourhood being remarkably good.

From *Ellesmere* we continued our journey to *Offestry*. From an eminence, called the *Perthy*, we

* Stiled also *Flint*. See *Granger's Biog. Hist.*

had a most extensive view of the flat part of the county, bounded by the hills of *Denbighshire*, *Montgomeryshire*, and *Shropshire*. Amidst them appear the vast gaps, through which the *Severn* and the *Dee* rush upon the plains out of their confinement. This tract is intermixed with woods, fertile lands, and moors of great extent.

After a ride of two or three miles along the flat, we reached *Halston*, the seat of *John Myton, Esq*; The house is situated on an elevated plot of ground, which rises out of an extensive flat, great part of which was subject to frequent floods: an inconvenience which has since been removed by the present owner, at the expence of much trouble and money, in draining considerable tracts of low ground, whereby the neighbourhood is rendered more healthy and pleasant. This flat, being well dotted with trees, foreshortens the prospect, till it is bounded by the magnificent scenery of the surrounding hills, which distinctly form, in various shapes, many pleasing points of view. A very extensive wood flanks each side of the house, which is bounded by a fine piece of water, made by extending the banks of the river *Perry*, and by conveying a branch of it through the lower part of the wood, inclosing several islands, whose shores are shaded with very large full-grown oaks, which all together form one of the most pleasing artificial pieces of water that is to be met with. The rest of the grounds are watered by the river *Perry*. This stream used to abound with excellent pike, trout, dace, gudgeons, cray-fish, and eels, till modern luxury gave an additional spur to the dexterity of poachers. The *Perry* rises in the hills, in the parish of *Syllatyn*, and passes through several moors to the village of *Ryton*, and afterwards falls into the *Severn*, a little below *Montford Bridge*.

At a mile's distance from *Halston*, we reached *Whittington*, a village seated in the parish of the same name.

name. Here is a castle standing on a flat; the gateway, and the ruins of two vast towers, with cruciform slips by way of windows, still remain; and the bare vestiges of two others may still be traced. It had been surrounded by a moat, and several vast ditches, which comprehended several other works.

The church is a small building, supposed to have been originally designed as the chapel to the castle, and made out of the refuse materials of that fortress by its founder.

Continuing our journey, we soon reached *Oswestry*, a considerable town, about two miles distant from *Whittington*, a place celebrated in *Saxon* history and legendary piety. On this spot, *August 5, 642*, was fought the battle between the Christian *Oswald*, King of the *Northumbrians*, and the pagan *Penda*, King of the *Mercians*, in which *Oswald* was defeated, and lost his life. The barbarian victor cut the body of the slain prince into pieces, and stuck them on stakes dispersed over the field, as so many trophies; but, according to others, his head and hands only were thus exposed.

A prince so dear to the church as *Oswald*, and so attached to the professors of the monastic life, received every posthumous honour they could bestow. He was raised to the rank of a saint, and his sanctity confirmed by numberless miracles. His reliques, which were afterwards removed, were efficacious in all disorders incident to man or beast. The very spot on which his pious corpse had laid, imparted its virtue by the mere contact: The horse of a traveller, wearied by excess of labour, stopped here, lay down, and, rolling about in agony, luckily tumbled on the place where *Oswald* fell. No sooner had he touched the ground, than he sprung up in full vigour. His master, a man of great sagacity! marked the spot, mounted his nag, and soon reached his inn, where he found a young woman ill of the palsy. He told
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The present church is of no great antiquity; it is spacious, and has a handsome plain tower. The town was fortified with a wall and four gates. That called the *Black-gate* is demolished; the *New-gate*, *Willow-gate*, and the *Beatrice-gate*, still remain. The last is a handsome building, with a guard-room on both sides.

There are only two fragments of the castle remaining. It stood on an artificial mount, surrounded by a fosse, extending to the *Beatrice-gate* on one side, and on the other to the *Willow-gate*.

From hence we proceeded to *Shrewsbury*, which is supposed to have been built out of the ruins of the ancient *Uriconium*. In the reign of *William I.* *Roger Earl of Montgomery* built a castle here, on the north side, and a stately abbey, called *St. Giles's*, or *The Holy Cross*, at the east end (of great note for being the repository of *St. Wenefrede's* body), some ruins of which are still to be seen. *Shrewsbury* is a beautiful, large, pleasant, populous, and rich town; full of gentry, and of trade too; for here is a great manufacture, as well of flannel, as of white broad-cloth, which enriches all the country round it.

The *Severn* nearly surrounds this town, in the form of an horse-shoe. Over it are two fine stone bridges, upon one of which is built a very noble gate, and over the arch of the gate, the statue of the great *Llewellyn*, the idol of the *Welsh*, and their last prince of *Wales*; this being the place where the ancient princes of *Powis-land*, or *North-Wales*, kept their residence.

Over the market-house is kept a kind of hall for the manufactures, which are sold here weekly in very

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great quantities : They speak all *English* in the town, but on a market-day you would think you were in *Wales*.

Here is the largest market, the greatest plenty of good provisions, and the cheapest, that is to be met with in all the western part of *England*. The *Severn* supplies them here with excellent salmon ; but it is also brought in great plenty from the *Dee*, which is not far off, and abounds with a good kind, and generally larger, than in the *Severn* ; but much less esteemed.

The market-days are *Wednesday*, *Friday*, and *Saturday* ; besides a great market on *Thursdays*, solely for the traffic of *Welsh* cloth, carried on by the company of drapers of this town ; and seven annual fairs : *Saturday* after *March 15* ; *Wednesday* after *Easter* week ; and *Wednesday* before *Whit-Sunday*, for cattle, cheese, and cloth ; *July 3*, and *Aug. 12*, for cattle, cheese, cloth, and lamb's wool ; *Oct. 2*, and *Dec. 12*, for cattle, butter, cheese, and linen.

Near this place was fought the bloody battle between *Henry Hotspur* and *Henry IV.* King of *England*, in which the former was killed, and all his army overthrown. The place is called *Battle-Field* to this day.

Here are five churches, besides meeting-houses ; two of them with lofty spires. *St. Chad's* and *St. Mary's* are said to have been anciently collegiate. There are abundance of antique monuments in them all.

All the parishes, except *St. Mary's*, which is a royal peculiar, are in the diocese of *Litchfield* and *Coventry*. The town was incorporated by King *Charles I.* and the government of it is placed in a mayor, recorder, steward, 24 aldermen, and 48 common-councilmen ; and it returns two members to parliament.

King *Charles II.* would have made *Shrewsbury* a city,

city, but they chose rather to remain a corporation, as they are, valuing themselves upon this town being, as they said, the first in *England*; for which they were called the *proud Salopians*.

This town will for ever be distinguished for the reception it gave to King *Charles I.* who, after setting up his standard at *Nottingham*, and finding no encouragement there, removed to *Shrewsbury*, being invited by the gentry of the town and country round; where he was received with such a general affection, and hearty zeal, that his Majesty recovered himself from the discouragement of his first step at *Nottingham*, and raised and completed a strong army in less time than could be imagined; insomuch that, to the surprize of the parliament, and indeed of all the world, he was in the field before them, and advanced upon them so fast, that he met them two-thirds on his way to *London*, and gave them battle at *Edgehill*, near *Banbury*.

But the fate of the war turning afterwards against the king, the weight of it fell heavy upon this town, and almost ruined it.

Indeed they are now fully recovered, and it is one of the most flourishing towns in *England*. The walls and gates are yet standing, but useless; and the old castle is gone to ruin, as is the case of almost all the old castles in *England*.

Here is also an handsome county-infirmary. The public walk called the *Quarry*, is esteemed the most beautiful of the kind in the kingdom. No town in *England*, perhaps, except the larger cities, can produce so many genteel resident families as this; and such as are fond of the forms and ceremonies of polite life, and cannot afford them in the metropolis, may find a very good imitation and epitome of them in the town of *Shrewsbury*.

Here is a good free-school, the most considerable in this part of *England*, founded by King *Edward VI.* and

and endowed by Queen *Elizabeth*, with a very sufficient maintenance for a chief or head-master, and three under-masters or ushers. The buildings, which are of stone, are very spacious, particularly the library, which has a great many books in it. The school-masters have also very handsome houses to dwell in; so that the whole has the face of a college. The infirmary, which was opened *April 25, 1747*, is a very handsome edifice, and pleasantly situated. In 1763, the subscription amounted to 1044*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* A new and elegant theatre has been lately built. The foundling-hospital is an handsome building, and pleasantly situated on an hill near the river. The principal seats near *Shrewsbury*, are *Berwick*, the seat of *Thomas Powis, Esq;* *Sundon*, of *Mr. Corbet*; *Tern*, of *Noel Hill, Esq;* member for the town before, and now (1778) for the county; *Lerignor*, of *Robert Burton, Esq;* *Cundover*, of *Lord Clive*; and *Underhill*, of *Henry Powis, Esq;*

Here is a very visible and remarkable appearance of the great ancient road called *Watling-street*, which comes from *London* to this town, and goes on from hence to the utmost coast of *Wales*. Remains of a stone bridge are to be seen in the bottom of the river, when the water is low. This road is raised a good height above the soil, and so straight that upon an eminence you may see it to 10 or 12 miles before you, and as much behind, over many hill-tops answering one another as a vista of trees.

In the month of *May, 1773*, a very remarkable accident happened at a place called the *Birches*, between the *Colebrooke dale* and *Builder's bridge*, where a high bank, that lay by the *Severn*, split quite across the river, entirely stopped up the channel, and turned the course of the river over a meadow that lay on the other side. That part where the river ran instantly became a high bank, with twenty lofty oaks standing upon it; and where the ground divided

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a chasm was left seven or eight yards wide, and five or six deep. The depth of the earth that moved, appeared to be twenty yards, and the quantity of land rather more than twenty acres. The turnpike-road was removed several yards, and turned up edgewise. As soon as the bank had stopped up the bed of the river, the vessels below were left dry at the bottom of the channel, and the water took its course over the meadow. About 400 yards from the river's bank stood a house, where a family dwelt. The man got up about three o'clock in the morning, and hearing a rumbling noise, and finding the ground shake under him, he instantly called up his family. They perceived the ground begin to move, but knew not which way to run for safety. However, they hastened off the spot, and just as they had got to a neighbouring wood, the ground they had left separated from that on which they stood. The house was left standing, but a barn, that stood near it, was thrown down.

About a mile from *Shrewsbury*, in a large wood, stands *Boscobel-house*, or *White-Ladies*, as some call it, where the *Pendrils* lived, who preserved King *Charles II.* after *Worcester* battle, and famous for the *Royal Oak*. The floor of the garret, which is a Popish chapel (formerly a nunnery in possession of the family of *Cooksey*), being matted, prevents any suspicion of a little cavity with a trap-door over the stair-case, where the King was hid. His bed was artfully placed behind some wainscot, and shut up very close. A descendant of the *Cookseys* still keeps the gloves and garters which his Majesty left behind him.

The said chapel is still standing, and has some painted saints upon the wall at one end.

A bow-shot from the house, just by an horse-track passing through the wood, stood the *Royal Oak*, into which the King and Colonel *Charles* climbed, by means of

of the hen-roost ladder, when they thought it no longer safe to stay in the house, the family reaching them victuals with the nut-hook. It happened, as the people related it to us, that whilst the King and the Colonel were in the tree, a party of the enemy's horse (sent to search the house), came whistling and talking along this road; and, when they were just under the tree, an owl flew out of a neighbouring tree, and hovered along the ground, as if her wings were broken, which the soldiers merrily pursued.

The tree is now inclosed within a brick wall, the inside whereof is covered with laurel, of which we may say, as *Ovid* did of that of the *Augustan* palace — *Mediamque tuebere quercum*. For the oak is in the middle, almost cut away by travellers, whose curiosity leads them to see it. Close by the side grows a young thriving plant from one of its acorns.

After the Restoration, the King, reviewing the place (no doubt, with very different emotions from what he had when he was in it), gathered some of the acorns, and set them in *St. James's* park or garden, and used to water them himself. He also bestowed 200*l.* per annum on *Bendril*, which remains in the family. Over the door of the inclosure is a *Latin* inscription cut in marble; which may be thus translated:

Basil and Jane Fitzherbert recommended to posterity this most fortunate tree, which the all-gracious and all-mighty God, by whom kings reign, ordained here to grow, to be the asylum of the most potent Prince King Charles II. and have begirt it with a wall, as well in perpetual remembrance of so great an event, as a testimony of their firm allegiance to kings.

—The Oak below'd by Jove.

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Ten miles south-east of *Shrewsbury* stands *Great Wenlock*, a good market-town, mentioned before.

The noted *Wrekin-hill* stands higher up, north of it, between the *Watling-street* and the *Severn*, within a mile of *Wroxeter*, the famous *Roman* station. It ascends gradually from a pleasant level ground, strikes out a pretty great length, and is well adorned with trees. It is the highest ground in the county, and gives a fine prospect all around it.

North of this, about eight miles distance, is *Hawkestone*, a fine seat belonging to Sir *Rowland Hill*, Bart. The house, which is built in a very good taste, standing low, is not seen from the road; but the hill, which stands above the house, and fronts the *Wrekin*, is made very agreeable, by cutting away the rocks, and forming them into bastions, and regular *Gothic* buildings, with the same stone; and here is a fine vineyard planted in terraces, which overlooks the country beyond *Shrewsbury*, in which the grapes generally ripen as soon as in most parts of *England*, owing to its situation, being defended on every side, and open only to the south.

Following the *Watling-street*, north, we came to a small market-town called *Wellington*, of very little note; and still keeping the *Street*, we arrived at *Newport* on the borders of *Staffordshire*, a little market-town, where is one of the noblest foundations for a school in the whole kingdom, endowed by Mr. *Adams*, an haberdasher of *London*, to the value of 7000*l*. The school is 70 feet long, 22 wide, and the same in height, a library, an house for both the master and usher, 40*l*. a year to the first, and 20*l*. to the other; and a garden to each house of an acre, and two acres for the boys to play in. Near it he has likewise built an alms-house, and gave 550*l*. towards building the town-house.

There is likewise an *English* school in this town, of a very ancient foundation, free to all the inhabitants,

ants, worth about 30*l.* a year, and in the gift of the crown. *Newport* gave the title of baron to the late Earls of *Bradford*, and the Earls of *Shrewsbury* and *Gower* are joint Lords of the manor. The facetious *Tom Brown* was a native of this town, his father being a tanner therein.

In *Shiffnal* church, eight miles from *Newport*, is the following inscription: "*William Wakely*, was baptized at *Idfall*, alias *Shiffnal*, May 1, 1591, and buried at *Adbaston*, November 28, 1714, his age 124 and upwards: he lived in the reigns of eight Kings and Queens." (*viz.* *Elizabeth*, *James I.* *Charles I.* and *II.* *James II.* *William and Mary*, *Anne*, and *George I.*)

Between this town and *Drayton*, a small market-town, higher up northward, and likewise on the borders of *Staffordshire*, is *Blorebeath*, famous for a battle fought between the houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, wherein *Nevil* Earl of *Salisbury* for the former, with 5000 men only, beat Lord *Audley* with 10,000 men, after a most bloody engagement. A remarkable stone cross is erected upon the spot where Lord *Audley* was slain; and near this heath stands *Oakley*, a fine seat of Sir *John Chetwode*, Bart.

Entering *Staffordshire*, we quitted the said *Streetway*, a little to the left, to see *Stafford*, the county-town, and the most considerable, except *Litchfield*, in the county. In the way, we passed through a small, but ancient town, called *Penkrige*, vulgarly *Pankrage*, probably the *Pennocrucium* of the *Romans*, where happened to be a fair. We were surprized to see the prodigious number of the finest and most beautiful horses that can any-where be seen, brought hither from *Yorkshire*, the bishoprick of *Durham*, and all the horse-breeding counties in *England*: I believe I may mark it for the greatest horse-fair in the world, for horses of value, and especially those we call saddle-horses;

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horses; though there were great numbers of fine large stone-horses for coach and draught too.

From hence we came in two hours easy riding to *Stafford*, on the river *Stow*. It is an ancient town, and gives name to the county. It is neat and well built, and pleasantly seated in low grounds; and is lately much increased, and grown rich by the clothing-trade. It is governed by a mayor, and other inferior officers, consists of two parishes, and returns two members to parliament. This town retains the ancient custom of *Borough English*; which is, that the youngest sons inherit the lands of their fathers within the town. It is adorned with two churches, one of which is very large and spacious, and a free-school: the streets are clean, and well paved; the buildings of stone and slate; and some of the structures are very modish and beautiful. Its market-place is large and uniform; in which stands the shire-hall, where the assizes for the county are held. King *John* made it a corporation, and *Edward VI.* confirmed and enlarged the charter. About a mile and half out of the town, upon an hill, we saw the ruins of an ancient castle, belonging heretofore to the barons of *Stafford*; but demolished in the civil wars. This hill affords a most pleasant prospect of the town, and adjacent country.

We tarried here a few days, in order to visit the towns lying on each side of it with more attention and convenience.

Eccleshall lies north-west of *Stafford*, and is a pretty market-town, noted for pedlary-wares: and an handsome little market-town, with good inns in it, called *Stone*, lies upon the *Trent*; and all the country hereabouts yields delightful views of this noble river. Near this place Lord *Archibald Hamilton*, in 1772, built an elegant house, called *Sandon-Hall*, which commands a prospect of the *Staffordshire* navigation,

vigation, and affords a pleasing view of this fine country.

Newcastle under Line stands still farther north, upon a branch of the *Trent*. It is governed by a mayor, two justices, two bailiffs, and common-council, holds pleas under 40s. and returns two members to parliament. The streets are large, broad, and paved, and the town is surrounded with coal-pits. It has an handsome market-place. The new castle, whence the town was denominated, is now levelled.

The principal manufacture in this town at present is hat making, there being an incorporated company here by the name of felt-makers.

Dr. Plot, as an instance of the growth of stones, mentions, that near this place was found a stone, with a man's skull, teeth and all, inclosed in it.

About three miles northward lies *Cobridge* and *Burslem*, the chief manufacturing places for white flint-ware, equally strong and sweet as *India* porcelain, in such universal use, under the engaging name of the *Queen's Ware*. Mess. *Wedgwood* and *Bentley*, the principal manufacturers as to elegance and goodness, have been ingenious enough to apply it, in many shapes, to many purposes, never before thought of in *England*, nor can they possibly exhaust so cheap and ductile a subject. The annual amount of it exported, is about 100,000*l*. The chief potters have lately made turnpike roads, to have their wares more conveniently carried off; and a still navigation, in the manner of the Duke of *Bridgewater's*, now extends from *Burton upon Trent* to *Frodsham-Bridge*, in *Cheshire*; which give the people of *Ireland*, and likewise the nearer inhabitants of *Chester*, *Liverpool*, and adjoining parts, an opportunity of having *Staffordshire* coals, which are remarkably good, and lie under almost every field within two miles distance of the potteries.

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little town of *Trentham*, so called from the river *Trent*, which rises there.

At this place is the noble seat of Earl *Gower*, which is esteemed the finest place in this county: the house is modern, and built on the plan of the *Queen's Palace*, in *St. James's Park*. It is situated close to the church, which renders the entrance to the house very inconvenient, the church and church-yard being in front.

The park is very beautiful, has two large pieces of water in it; and the hills, which rise immediately from the water, are finely covered with wood, which has a noble effect as you pass the road to *Newcastle*. The park is walled round, and from the high ground in it, you have an extensive view of the country every way.

Betley, a little market-town, lies north-west of *Newcastle*, upon the borders of *Cheshire*.

Breewood is a pretty market-town, lying south-west of *Stafford*. And, due south, stands

Wolverhampton, a very ancient town, situate on an hill, which is well built, paved, and inhabited. Here the trade of lock-making is carried on to great perfection; as is also every other manufacture in brass and iron; and the goods are exported all over *Europe*. The church, which is collegiate, was founded by a widow lady, named *Walsuena*, in the year 996, and King *Edward VI.* granted it, together with seven prebends thereunto belonging, to *John Dudley*, Duke of *Northumberland*, in the year 1553. In it are several old monuments, and a brass statue of Sir *Richard Leveson*, who engaged the *Spaniards*, under Sir *Francis Drake*. The pulpit is old, and of stone; and in the church-yard is a very old stone cross. From the hill, on which the town is situated, run four weak springs of different qualities, which is the only water they have to supply this large and populous town.

In the hamlet of *Wednesfield*, near two miles distant from *Wolverhampton*, a new chapel was erected, by virtue of an act of parliament passed in the session of 1746, for the better convenience of the inhabitants attending divine service, the roads between these two places being very deep and dirty in the winter-season; and the chaplain or curate is to be nominated by Mrs. *Martha Gough*, widow, a principal contributor to this pious work, or her heirs.

In the year 1755, an Act of Parliament was obtained, and a large subscription made, to build a new chapel in this town, which has since been completed in a plain handsome manner, though, from the subscription being exhausted, no steeple was erected till the year 1776. It is built and fitted up in the modern stile of the *London* churches, and has in it an exceeding good organ.

A charity-school was built at *Wolverhampton*, and endowed by *Stephen Jennings*, a native thereof, in 1668, Lord Mayor of *London*. There are also two other charity-schools, one for 50 boys, and the other for 40 girls, who are taught and cloathed. An Act of Parliament was obtained, in June 1777, for lighting, paving, and otherwise improving this flourishing town.

Walsal, east of *Wolverhampton*, is a good pleasant corporate-town, governed by a mayor, and situate on the top of an hill. This place is famous for iron-mines and iron-works, such as spurs, bridle-bits, stirrups, buckles, &c. in which there is a considerable trade carried on.

Wrottesley deserves to be mentioned, as it is eminent for the remains of some *British* or other antiquity; but it is supposed to have been a city in ancient times, because of the several partitions like streets, running divers ways, which are within the limits of it; as also the large hinges which have been found here, and some of the stones squared. The whole contains in circuit

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cuit about three or four miles; and stones of a vast bigness have been found thereabouts. It is remarkable, that one of these made 100 loads; another, after ten loads hewn off, required 36 yoke of oxen to draw it, and made a great cistern in a malt-house here at *Wrottesley*; which, though left very thick both at bottom and sides, wets 37 strikes of barley at a time.

Upon the extremity of the county, south, just on the borders of *Worcestershire*, is situate upon an high mountain, the famous ancient castle of *Dudley*, a building of great extent, with trenches about it cut out of a rock, and hath an high tower upon it, on the south-side. It was built by *Dodo a Saxon*, in 700. Great part of it is in ruins, and the rest converted into a noble seat, where the Lord *Ward* resides. The castle over-tops all the trees that surround it, and has a most extensive prospect over five shires, and into part of *Wales*. In the hall of this castle is a table all of one entire plank, which, before it was fitted up there, was 25 yards long, and one yard in breadth; but, being too long for the hall, seven yards and nine inches of it were cut off, and made a table for the hall of a neighbouring gentleman.

The town of *Dudley* lies near it, but in *Worcestershire*, and is only remarkable for being in a different county from the castle.

Near *Stafford* we saw *Ingestre*, where the late *Walter Chetwynd*, Esq; built, or rather rebuilt, a very fine church at his own charge, and where the late Lord Viscount *Chetwynd*, has a fine park and gardens.

About three miles from *Stafford* is *Shuckborough*, the seat of Mr. *Anson*, the nephew of the late Lord *Anson*. The house stands near the *Trent*, contains some very fine apartments, which are furnished in a very splendid manner with pictures, statues, &c. But the gardens claim a very minute attention. Several of the buildings which Mr. *Stuart* the architect saw

in the ruins of *Athens*, are here built according to their original dimensions; with many other very fine and splendid exhibitions of architecture.

At the bottom of the garden, in the public road, is a large standing water, which in winter, and after great rains, is impassable: over it is a stone bridge of 39 arches, for horse and foot passengers.

I am now at the utmost extent of my proposed limits for this circuit, for *Ingestre* parks reach to the very banks of the *Trent*. So I turned to the right, and, intending for *Litchfield*, in the way we saw *Beaufort*, a famous old seat, said to be built by *Hugh Lupus*, Earl of *Chester*. The name indeed intimates it to be of *Norman* or *French* original; at present it is in the family of Lord *Paget*, nephew to the late Earl of *Uxbridge*, who is styled Baron of *Beaufort*. The park is very fine, and its situation exceeding pleasant, but the house is ancient. In the park is a famous piece of antiquity; viz. a large camp or fortification, surrounded with a double trench, very large and deep.

On the left of the road is *Ouseley*, or *Wolseley*, an elegant seat. The house is ancient, and situated low among the marshes, with the river running at the back of the house. The park is on a rising ground on the right-hand of the road, so is separated from the houses and gardens.

From hence it is about 12 miles to the city of *Litchfield*, the principal, next to *Chester*, of all the north-west part of *England*; nor indeed is there any other, but this and *Coventry*, in the whole road from *London* to *Carlisle*, which is on the edge of *Scotland*.

We now came into the great *Lancashire* and *Cheshire* road, or the north-west road from *London*, which, passing through *Litchfield*, from *Warrington-bridge* in *Cheshire*, falls into the *Watling-street*, mentioned before, about three miles south-east from the town, and crosses another ancient causeway or road, called

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Icknild-street, about a mile out of the city; so that *Litchfield* lies, as it were, at the joining of all those great roads.

But, instead of going directly to *Litchfield*, we struck out of the road, and went north-east to *Bromley*, a pretty village; and from thence east to *Tutbury* on the skirts of *Derbyshire*; it is a small town, with a castle in it.

Some miles southward stands *Burton upon Trent*, where the clothing-trade is carried on with great advantage. It is famous for good ale, and its noble bridge over the *Trent*, consisting of 36 arches, and of the length of 503 yards, built probably by *William de la Waid*, in King *Henry III.*'s time (whose arms are still to be seen in the church), of free-stone cut and squared.

Here are still the remains of an abbey of the *Benedictines*, whose abbot was mitred, and sat in parliament. In it was buried *Modwena*, a virgin of eminent sanctity, who gave name to a well in the parish, whose water is said to cure several diseases. *Thursday* is the market-day; and it has four fairs: *April 5*, *Holy Thursday*, *July 16*, and *October 29*, for cattle.

From hence we turned south-west to *Litchfield*, which is a fine, neat, well built, and pretty large city. It rose from the ruins of the *Roman Etocetum*, a mile off, now called *Chesterfield-wall*, from some reliques of its fortifications. There is a kind of flow, sluggish lough, or water, which runs, or rather glides heavily through it, and so on for four or five miles farther into the *Trent*, but takes a swifter motion as soon as it is out of the town. This water parts the city into two: one part is called the town, and the other the close; in the first is the market-place, a fine school, and a very handsome hospital dedicated to *St. John*, well endowed. This part is much the largest, and most populous; but the other is the fairest, has the best buildings in it, and, among the rest, the

cathedral church, one of the finest and most beautiful in *England*.

There are two fine causeways, which join the city and the close, with sluices to let the water pass, but those were cut through in the intestine wars in *England*; and the close, which is walled about, and was then fortified for the King, was very strong, and stood out several attacks against *Cromwell's* men; but was at last taken by storm, not without great loss of blood on both sides.

There are in the close, besides the houses of the clergy residentiaries, a great many well built and well inhabited houses; which make *Litchfield* a place of good company, above all the towns in this or the neighbouring counties of *Warwickshire* or *Derbyshire*.

The see is very ancient, and was once archiepiscopal, made so by King *Offa*; and *Eadulph* the archbishop was metropolitan of all the kingdom of the *Mercians* and *East-Angels*, but it did not hold it; then it suffered another diminution, by having the see of *Chester* taken away, which was once part of this.

They told us here a long story of St. *Chad*, formerly bishop of this church, and how he lived an eremitical life here, by the spring near *Stow* church, in a little hovel or cell. But the bishops, since that time, fare better, in a very fine palace in the *Close*, and the residentiaries live in proportion to them.

They have another story at *Litchfield*; namely, that a thousand poor people, being instructed in the christian faith by the care of *Offa* King of the *Mercians*, were all martyred here in one field by the pagans: and that in the field where they were so murdered, King *Osby* of *Northumberland* caused a great church to be built; and from thence the city bears for its device, an open field, with mangled carcases lying dispersed about it, as if murdered, and left unburied.

The church, which was rebuilt by Bishop *Roger de Clinton* in 1148, for the elegance and regularity of the building,

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building, may be esteemed one of the most complete in *England*. The west-end is richly decorated with the statues of all the kings who reigned in *Jerusalem*, from *David* to the captivity. But it is too flat, and wants projection, or, as architects call it, *Relief*, to give it boldness. The two towers are much too low for their breadth, and look very heavy for want of windows, especially where the bells hang. The circular stair-cases projecting octagonally at one angle only of each, without any of the other three angles answering, is a great irregularity. But the spires above them are carried up in an exceeding beautiful taste, much beyond any other *Gothic* spires that I have seen. The middle tower and spire of this church are higher than those at the west-end, and are equally beautiful.

The spire designed for the middle of *Westminster Abbey*, was to be in imitation of the middle spire of this church.

The great window over the middle door is very large, and its pediment finely adorned, a large cross finishing the top of it.

The imagery and carved work on the front, as above, suffered much in 1641, and they told us, the cross over the west window was frequently shot at by the rude soldiers, but that they could not shoot it down.

The saints of those days also entirely ruined all the ornaments of the inside, with the brass inscriptions, tombs, &c. It is built in the midst of a bog for security, and held out some fierce attacks for King *Charles I.* and what the outside suffered, has been very well repaired since the restoration, as well by the famous Bishop *Hacket*, as by the bounty of several noble and generous benefactors.

The *Monasticon* makes mention of a shrine being given here for *St. Chad*, or *St. Cedda*, which cost 200,000*l.*

The city is a county of itself, with a jurisdiction extending 10 or 12 miles round, which circuit the sheriff rides every year on *Sept. 8.* It is governed by two bailiffs, a sheriff, 24 burgessees, a recorder, &c. and sends two members to parliament. A few years ago, a very noble and commodious county infirmary was erected near this town, and is maintained by public subscription. It has every requisite for the comfort and relief of those whose necessities oblige them to have recourse thither.

Ancient camps are found in the neighbourhood of *Litchfield.*

From *Litchfield* we came to *Tamworth*, a fine pleasant trading town, eminent for good ale, and good company, of the middling sort; and also for a fine charity of the same opulent bookseller, Mr. *Guy*, who built and endowed the noble hospital in *Southwark*, called by his name. The town stands on the river *Tame*, which runs through it, and divides it into two parts, one part whereof is in this county, and the other in *Warwickshire.* It is a bailiwick town, and a place of good account, though it has been much more considerable. Here was anciently a palace of the *Mercian Kings*, and there is still remaining a square trench, called the *The King's Dyke.* This town was given by *William I.* to the *Marmyons*, who built the castle here, and were hereditary champions of *England*, from whom that office descended to the *Dymokes* of *Lincolnshire.* This town returns two members to parliament.

The following account of a witch elm, in Sir *Walter Bagot's* park in *Staffordshire*, deserves notice.

Two men were five days felling it.

It measured 40 yards in length, when felled.

The stool was 15 yards two feet over.

14 Load were broken in the fall.

41 Load in the top.

There

There were made out of it 80 pair of navës, and 8660 feet of boards and planks.

It cost 10*l.* 17*s.* sawing.

The whole substance was conceived to be 97 tons, and was felled in 1674.

From *Tamworth* we came to *Sutton-Colefield*, a little town, situated in an excellent air, and among pleasant woods, though in a barren soil and bleak air; where annual fairs are kept, viz. on *Trinity Monday*, and *November 8*, for horned cattle, horses, and sheep; and then we came into the great road again at *Cole-shill* in *Warwickshire*, a small, but handsome market-town. It is situated by the river *Cole*, and on so high an hill, that the spire of the church is seen at a great distance every way.

In the valley below this town is the park and seat of the family of the *Digby's*. The house is ancient, and the situation low, which renders it bad in winter; but in summer, or fine weather, it is very pleasant, having the fine river serpentizing through the park, and the verdure continuing all the summer, (when most other grounds around it are burnt up) and adorned with very agreeable woods.

In our way from hence to *Coventry*, we passed by *Packington*, a seat of the Earl of *Aylesford*, about a mile from *Meridan*. The house stands on the south-side of the road, and the park on the north-side. A large arch is turned over the road, wide enough for a wheel-carriage to pass over, in order to have a communication between the house and the park, without going through the road. The house is modern, and appears from the road to be built in a good taste, but its low situation must deprive it of any extraordinary prospect. The road was turned to the south-side of the house, by act of parliament, in 1764.

We next came to *Coventry*, the sister city to *Litchfield*,

field, and joined in the title of see, which was for some little time seated here, but afterwards returned to *Litchfield*.

Coventry is a city of large extent, and populous, situated near the middle of *England*. It drives a great trade: the manufactory of stuffs was formerly their chief employ; but this has been upon the decline for several years, since which the weaving of ribbons has formed a very considerable branch of business. Broad silks have been introduced since the year 1775. The buildings are old, and in some places much decayed; the timber-built houses project forwards into the street towards one another: a method of building formerly much practised in *London*.

Edward IV. for its attachment to *King Henry VI.* against himself, took the sword from the mayor, and disfranchised the city, which redeemed its charter at the price of 500 marks; but he was so well reconciled, that in four years afterwards he kept *St. George's* feast there, and stood godfather to the mayor's child. Its present charter was granted by *King James I.*

It was formerly well walled and very strong; but *King Charles II.* after his restoration, ordered it to be dismantled, because it held out against his royal father; and so the walls, which were three miles in compass, with 26 towers, were demolished, and only the gates left standing, which were 12, all very noble and beautiful; at one of which hung a shield-bone of a wild boar, much bigger than that of an ox; said to have been slain by the famous *Guy Earl of Warwick*, after he had with his snout turned up the pond, which is now called *Swan's-well Pool*, but more anciently *Swine's-well*: however, there are only three gates standing at present.

The *Princes of Wales* have a large park and domain here, upon grant of the corporation. It is three miles and a half round; and, for variety of

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ground, and the uninterrupted prospect it affords, is esteemed as an exceeding good course for racing; though races are very rare here, there not having been any since the general election in 1768.

In the time of *Edward the Confessor*, this city was in the possession of the Earl of *Chester*, who gave a great part of it to the monks; and it was afterwards annexed to the Earldom, now Dukedom of *Cornwall*.

This city sends two members to parliament. It is a county incorporate of itself, and includes 19 villages and hamlets within its limits. It holds pleas, and is governed by a mayor, sheriffs, 10 aldermen, and sub-officers; but it had only two parish-churches, that of the *Holy Trinity*, and the church of *St. Michael*, which were unable to hold half the inhabitants, till the year 1734, when an act passed for making the church of *Bablake* in *Coventry* a parish-church; for appointing a district or parish thereto; and for enabling the master and usher of the free grammar-school within the said city, to be the rector and lecturer of the said parish-church, for all time to come. This is called in the act the parish of *St. John the Baptist* in the city of *Coventry*, and is in the presentation of the corporation.

The last mentioned church has no spire; but, besides the two spires to the churches of *St. Michael* and *St. Trinity*, there is a third by itself, at the south-west end of the town, the remains of a church, which belonged to a monastery of *Grey Friars*.

The roads are kept well paved to it for a mile round.

Here is a good free-school, founded by *John Hales*, Esq; by the name of the school of King *Henry VIII.* the master of which is to be, for the future, the minister of the new parish-church I have just mentioned. It has a good library. Here is also an hospital for the poor.

In the church of *St. Michael*, which is a fine fabric of *Gothic* architecture, and was twenty-two years in building, is a curious piece of painting, lately erected for an altar-piece; by some thought more to resemble those that are seen in Popish churches abroad, than the true Protestant simplicity. But here is no cathedral, as some have reported, neither is the great church, so called, either collegiate or conventual, but only a monastery or priory.

Yet this city contended a great while for this honour, but could not carry it. In King *Henry VIII.*'s time, the priory being dissolved, the church, which they would have called a cathedral, was reduced to a private parish-church, and continues so to this day: It is also an archdeaconry.

The spire of the great church is, however, very beautiful, and 300 feet high. The two churches above named are very near to each other.

Here was a rich convent, destroyed by the *Danes* in 1016, from whence the city is supposed to take its name, but afterwards rebuilt by *Leofrick*, Earl of *Mercia*.

A parliament was held here in the reign of *Henry VI.* called *Parliamentum Inductorum*, or *The Unlearned Parliament*, because the lawyers were excluded; and another in the reign of *Henry VI.* called by the *Yorkists*, *Parliamentum Diabolicum*, or *The Devil's Parliament*, from the attainder of *Richard Duke of York*, and of his son the Earl of *March*, (afterwards *Edward IV.*) and the Earls of *Salisbury* and *Warwick*, and their adherents.

The water of the river *Sherburn*, on which the city stands, is peculiar for its blue dye; whence *Coventry blues* became famous.

The cross was a fine *Gothic* work, the stateliest in the kingdom, being 60 feet high; and in niches where statues of several of the *English* kings, in curious *Gothic* sculpture, larger than life. It was built
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in the time of *Henry VIII.* by *Sir William Holles*, Lord Mayor of *London*, and was repaired and beautified in the year 1667. From that time, till 1770, it was neglected, and its beauty being totally destroyed, the remains of this once noble edifice were taken down.

The town-house is worth seeing; the windows of it are painted glass, representing some of the old kings, earls, &c. who have been benefactors to the town.

And a copy of *Latin* verses is there to be read, in praise of their royal benefactors, in which are named the *Edwards*, the *Henries*, the *Black Prince*, *Queen Elizabeth*, the Duke of *Northumberland*, and the great Earl of *Leicester*, *Queen Elizabeth's* favourite.

Wednesday and *Friday* are the market-days.

Earl *Leofrick*, above mentioned, who died the 13th of *Edward the Confessor*, seems to have been the first lord of this town; and there is a story concerning him, handed down by tradition, and firmly believed here, which we must not omit, and is as follows: That this Earl, having heavily taxed the citizens for some offence they had given him, his lady *Godiva*, daughter of *Thorold*, a sheriff of *Lincolnshire*, earnestly importuned him to remit the taxes, and to free the citizens from all servile tenures; but could not prevail with him, unless she would consent to ride naked through the most frequented part of the city; a condition which he was sure, as he thought, her modesty would never comply with: But, in compassion to the city, the tradition says, that, after having ordered all the doors and windows to be shut, upon pain of death, she rode through the streets on horseback, naked, with her dishevelled hair about her, which was so long, that it covered all her body but her legs. *Camden* says, that nobody looked after her; yet the story goes, that a poor taylor peeped out of his window, and was thereupon struck blind. Be
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this as it will, his figure is put up in the same window, of the *High-street*, to this day. Upon *Godiva's* riding naked as above, Earl *Leofrick* remitted the taxes he had imposed on the citizens: in memory of which, they set up his picture and her's in the window of *Trinity Church*, with this inscription:

*I Leofrick, for the love of thee,
Do set Coventry toll-free.*

And they have an annual procession or cavalcade, on the great fair-day, the *Friday* after *Trinity Sunday*, representing *Godiva* so riding through the town; and it is usual for the *Warwickshire* gentlemen, at their annual feast, to represent her in the same manner, with *Guy* Earl of *Warwick* on horseback, armed *cap-à-pie*, before the cavalcade.

Birmingham is a large town, and, if some narrow streets are excepted, it is handsome. It is far from being that noisy, dirty place it has been frequently represented, and the people are gay and lively. Hackney-coaches ply in the streets; and here is a *Vauxhall*, about a mile out of the town. These gardens are pretty, but small; they are clean and neat, and contain something more than an acre of ground. This place was formerly the residence of Sir *Eldred Holte*; but, since the family have removed to *Birmingham Aston*, this house and gardens have been let, and turned into a place of public amusement. The orchestra is in the garden, in imitation of the *Vauxhall* at *London*, but smaller, and plain. There are seats and walks in the garden; and suppers, wine, &c. are provided for such of the company as chuse them.

This town is situated on the side of a hill, forming nearly a half-moon, and is about two miles in length, nearly the same in breadth, and about six miles in circumference.

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Here are two churches, one called *St. Martin's*, and the other *St. Philip's*. The former is an ancient building, with a lofty spire, and twelve good bells; the latter a grand modern structure, having a fine tower, with ten bells, and a handsome copula above it, and stands in one of the finest church-yards in *England*, encompassed with a wall, and laid out with several pleasant walks, for contemplation and amusement. In each steeple is a set of musical chimes, which play every three hours, and a different tune every day in the week. Besides these, there is a handsome chapel of ease, called *St. Bartholomew's Chapel*; and two others are erecting. There are likewise two meeting-houses for Presbyterians, one of which is new, and very handsome; one for Quakers, and three for other Dissenters. There are also three free-schools.

A weekly market is held here on *Thursdays*, which is plentifully supplied from the country with every article of provisions, and well stored with live cattle of all kinds; and two fairs yearly, on the *Thursday* in *Whitsun* week, and on the 10th of *October*, for hard-ware, black cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, &c.

Being no corporation town, it is governed by two bailiffs, two constables, and a headborough, and is free for any person to come and settle in, which perhaps not a little contributes to the increase of its trade, buildings, and inhabitants.

A navigable cut was begun in *April* 1768, and finished in *November*, 1769, to the collieries at *Wednesbury*, from whence the inhabitants here are supplied with exceeding good coals, at a very moderate rate, which before were sold at a very exorbitant price, to the great distress and detriment of the poor. In 1772, it was extended to *Autherly*, from whence a communication is opened through the *Severn* to *Shrewsbury*, *Gloucester*, and *Bristol*, and through the *Trent* to *Gainsborough* and *Hull*, from which place
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goods are brought by water, at much less rate than the former cost of land-carriage; and many hands are now employed in extending the communication to *Liverpool*, through the *Mersey*. These, however, are not the only advantages reaped from this truly useful work: The inhabitants of this town, as well as those of the country through which the navigation runs, being accommodated with most agreeable walks, for many miles together, along the delightful banks of the canal.

But what is most worthy of observation, is the manufactory carried on at *Soho*, in *Handsworth* parish, two miles distant from *Birmingham*, by Mess. *Bolton* and *Fothergill*. The building consists of four squares, with shops, warehouses, &c. for a thousand workmen, who, in a great variety of branches, excel in their different departments, not only in the fabrication of buttons, buckles, boxes, trinkets, &c. in gold, silver, and a variety of compositions; but in many other arts long predominant in *France*, which lose their reputation on a comparison with the product of this place: And it is by the natives hereof, or of the parts adjacent, (whose emulation and taste the proprietors have spared no care or expence to excite and improve) that it is brought to its present flourishing state: The number of ingenious mechanical contrivances they avail themselves of, by the means of water-mills, much facilitate their work, and save a great deal of time and labour. The plated work has an appearance of solid silver, more especially when compared with that of any other manufactory. Their excellent ornamental pieces, in or-moulu, have been admired by the nobility and gentry, not only of this kingdom, but of all *Europe*, and are allowed to surpass any thing of the kind made abroad. Some articles lately executed in silver plate, shew, that taste and elegance of design prevail here in a superior

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The environs of this building was, a few years ago, a barren and uncultivated heath; but now contains many houses, and wears the appearance of a populous country. Notwithstanding the number of people in that parish is double what it was a few years ago, yet the poors-rates are diminished, which is a striking instance of the good effects of industry.

Without a letter of recommendation from some correspondent, or person known at the manufactory, a stranger will find it difficult to get admittance. This caution is not improper, as persons have been known to visit the manufactories of this town, with a view of obtaining particular information.

The next object is Mr. *Clay's* manufactory for jappanning, &c. making paper cases, stands, waiters, tea-boards, coach-pannels, &c. all of paper, finely varnished and painted. The work here is curious, ingenious, and deserving of both praise and encouragement. Mr. *Taylor's* button, &c. manufactory; Mr. *Ray's* whip-making, &c. &c. are all well worth seeing; but, if the stranger cannot procure letters of recommendation to all, he must lay out a little money.

Such a spirit of industry reigns among all ranks of people here, that every individual contributes to the execution of some of the useful or ornamental mechanic arts, of which such an infinite variety are here carried on: The women, and even children, earn their livelihood, by assisting in the fabrication of toys, trinkets, and other things. Nor is the education of the rising generation in the use of letters hereby left unattended to, evening schools being kept, in every part of the town, to which the little artists resort, for the instruction of their tender minds, after they have performed their bodily labour.

We could by no means pass the town of *Warwick*,
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the distance being but about 12 miles from *Coventry*, and a very pleasant way on the banks of the river *Avon*: It is famous for being the residence of *Guy* Earl of *Warwick*, of whom tradition has given us many fabulous accounts. He flourished in the reign of *Athelstane*, and decided the fate of the kingdom by compact, in single combat with *Colbrond* the *Dane*, a man of gigantic stature, whom he slew. They shew us here his castle, his helmet, his sword, and tell abundance of things of him, which have some appearance of history, though not much authority to support them. The castle, they tell us, was built before our Saviour's time, and has been a place of great consideration ever since.

Warwick is really a fine town, pleasantly situated on the banks of the *Avon*, over which is a large and stately bridge, the *Avon* being now grown a pretty large river. *Warwick* has suffered much from all quarters. It was once destroyed by the *Picts* and *Scots*; after which, the famous *Caractacus* (who at the head of the *Silures* opposed the *Romans* so long), rebuilt it, erecting there also a palace for himself. Then the *Romans* under *Ostorius*, and after them the *Saxons*, greatly damaged it; and lastly, the ravaging *Danes* ruined it.

Though it was a corporation by prescription, yet it took a charter from *Philip* and *Mary*, and afterwards from *James* I. and is now governed by a bailiff, and 12 burgesses. It has an handsome stone-built market-house, upheld by pillars; and here is a good free-school, and four hospitals, one of them well endowed for 12 decayed gentlemen, with an allowance of 20 *l.* a year for each, and 50 *l.* for a chaplain. Though it has been accounted an handsome well-built town, yet the face of it is now quite altered and improved; for having been almost wholly reduced to an heap of rubbish, by a terrible fire, which happened the 5th day of *September* 1694, by the mere accident

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accident of a spark being blown from a stick, as it was carried across a lane, to the damage of 96,000*l*. It was rebuilt by act of parliament, and that in so noble and beautiful a manner, that few towns in *England* make so fine an appearance.

The church and lofty tower are new built, except the east end, which is old, and very good work. There are many fine brass monuments of the Earls of *Warwick*, and others; also one of the Earl of *Essex*, Queen *Elizabeth's* unhappy favourite; and many chapels and confessionaries. In the chapter-house on the north side, is a tomb of the Lord *Brooke*. The castle stands upon the river *Avon*, on a solid rock, from whose bowels that and the whole town may be said to have been dug. The terrace of the castle overlooks a beautiful country; one sees the *Avon* running at the foot of the precipice, from above 50 feet perpendicular height; for the solid rock, from the river on which it stands, is 40 feet high, but on the north side it is even with the town. The building is old, but has been often repaired and beautified; and it is now a very agreeable structure, both within and without. The apartments are very nicely contrived, and the communication of the remotest parts of the building, one with another, is so well preserved by galleries, and by the great hall, which is very magnificent, that one finds no irregularity in the whole building, notwithstanding its ancient plan, as it was a castle built for strength, rather than a palace to dwell in for pleasure.

A stone bridge, with a dozen arches, is at the castle; across is a stone-work dam, where the water falls over it as a cascade, under the castle wall. It is fenced with a deep mound, and strong embattled double walls, and lofty towers. On one side the area is a very high mount. There are good apartments and lodgings next the river, the residence of the Earl of *Warwick*. The priory, on the north-east of the town,

town, overlooks a pleasant woody vale. There are a great many curious original pictures in the castle, by *Vandyke*, and other good hands, of kings, queens, and other noble personages, both *English* and foreign.

Wednesday and *Saturday* are the market-days; and it holds six fairs, which are, the first *Saturday* in *Lent*, *May-day*, *Midsummer-day*, *St. Bartholomew's*, *Michaelmas*, and *St. Simon and St. Jude*. It sends two members to parliament. In *May* 1757, an act passed for raising 4000*l.* by a county rate, for rebuilding a shire-hall at *Warwick*; which was accordingly erected, and is one of the largest and most commodious in *England*. The two courts are very well contrived; and, by means of a false floor, moveable at pleasure, the hall may, at any time, be rendered a convenient ball-room, to which purpose it is applied during the time of the races, or any other public occasion.

A mile out of the town, on the side of an hill, is a pretty retiring cell, called *Guy-Cliff*, supposed to have been the hermitage to which that hero retired after his martial exploits. In an old chapel is *Guy's* statue, eight feet high. The fence of the court is entire rock, in which are cut stables and out-houses.

Near this place, at *Legers-Ashby* in *Northamptonshire*, has been an old town, as they say, destroyed by the *Danes*. *Catesby*, who hatched the powder-plot, owned the town.

We went on to *Daventry*, a considerable market-town, governed by a mayor, alderman, steward, and 12 freemen. It lies on the great road to *Chester*, and is consequently a great thoroughfare, and well furnished with good inns; for it subsists chiefly by the great concourse of travellers that pass that way. It lies also on the old *Watling-street* way.

From *Daventry* we went a little out of the road, to see a great camp called *Burrow-hill*, upon the north

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north end of an eminence, covered over with fern and grofs. They say this was a *Danish* camp, and every thing hereabouts is attributed to the *Danes*, because of the neighbouring *Daventry*, which they suppose to have been built by them. The road hereabouts too being overgrown with Dane-weed, they fancy it sprang from the blood of the *Danes*, slain in battle; and that if, upon a certain day in the year, you cut it, it bleeds.

Originally, it seems to have been *Roman*, but perhaps new-modelled by the *Danes*.

In *Norton* town road a *Cornu Ammonis* lies neglected, too big to bring away.

At *Weedon* is shewn the site of King *Wolfshe's* palace, the *Saxon* kings of this province residing here.

The pastures called the *Ashes* are the *Roman* camp. *St. Werberg*, daughter of King *Wolfshe*, and abbess to the nunnery in this place, had here a chapel. Abundance of very fine stone, and many *Roman* coins have been dug up. *Weedon* now contains two parishes, and has been a market-town.

Old Stratford stands on the opposite side of the *Ouze* to *Stony-Stratford*. In the fields thereabouts are found many *Roman* coins. A little north of the *Horse-shoe* inn stood Queen *Eleanor's* cross, which was pulled down in the civil wars.

To the west of *Stratford* stands *Whadden-hall*, the seat of the late *Brown Ellis*, Esq; the great antiquarian, author of the *Survey of Cathedrals*, &c. upon very high ground, affording a beautiful prospect. This manor formerly belonged to the *Lords Grey*; one of whom, a knight of the garter, is buried in the church. Here is the original picture of Dr. *Willis*, the progenitor of the present possessor, with many of his MSS. letters, consultations, and lectures, and other works, unpublished. The poets *Spenser*, and the Duke of *Bucks*, honoured this place with their residence. Still higher stands *Stukeley*.

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The church is very entire, though built before the *Norman* invasion, in the plain ancient manner.

I now come to *Northampton*, an ancient borough-town, incorporated by King *Henry II.* and confirmed by King *James I.* Several parliaments have been held here, on account of its healthful and agreeable situation, besides its being the handsomest town in this part of *England*; but here, as at *Warwick*, the beauty of it is owing to its disaster; for it was so effectually burnt down, *Sept. 20, 1675*, that very few houses were left standing. It is now finely rebuilt with brick and stone, and the streets made spacious and wide. It has two hospitals, and a charity-school well endowed. The market-place is square and spacious; the assize-house is built after the *Corinthian* order. Here are four parish-churches, *All-Saints*, *St. Giles's*, *St. Sepulchre's*, and *St. Peter's*. *All-Saints*, or *All-Hallows* church, is a pretty edifice, with a copula, and a noble portico before it, of eight lofty *Ionic* columns. Upon the ballustrade is a statue of King *Charles II.* It is situated on the north-west of the river *Nyne*, lately made navigable to this town. *August 7, 1761*, the undertaking was completed, and 38 barges loaden with coals and other goods came to the wharf at the south bridge with great rejoicing. There is hardly a more beautiful vale, than that through which this river runs from *Northampton* to *Peterborough*. Over the river are two handsome bridges, walled in; and on the west side are the remains of an old castle, upon an eminence. It is governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, a recorder, &c. and sends two members to parliament. *All-Saints* church before mentioned is a noble structure, and stands in a center where four large noble streets terminate. The public buildings, the infirmary, gaol, and session-house, are esteemed among the finest that can be seen in any county-town in *England*, being all new built.

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The great inn called the *George*, at the corner of the *High-street*, looks more like a palace than an inn, cost above 2000*l.* building; and so generous was the owner, that, as we are told, when he had built it, he gave it to the poor of the town.

This is counted the center of all the horse-markets and horse-fairs in *England*, there being here no less than seven fairs in a year. And indeed *Northampton* is reckoned the navel of *England*. Here they buy horses of all sorts, as well for the saddle as for the coach and cart; and hither all the jockeys from *London* resort to purchase horses.

Castle-Ashby, the seat of the Earl of *Northampton*, with the modern improvements of the grounds about it by Mr. *Brown*, are well worth the inspection of the curious traveller.

Near *Northampton* is the ancient Royal House of *Holmeby*, which was formerly in great esteem, and by its situation is capable of being made a truly royal palace. The house and estate was purchased by the late Dukes of *Marlborough*, and is at present possessed by a farmer, who has pulled down part of the out-houses, and converted the remaining part into barns, stables, &c.

A little way off *Northampton* is *Naseby*, where the bloody and fatal battle was fought between the royalists and parliamentarians, upon a fine plain, where at present stands a windmill; and on it are the marks of several great holes, where the slain were buried; and near this is *Guildsborough*, so named from a *Roman* camp, of a square form, and a deep ditch called *The Burrows*.

Towcester is a considerable town between two rivulets, which encompass it almost round. It is an handsome place, well provided for the reception of travellers. It is of large extent, and very populous.

Towcester is a pretty town, of *Roman* antiquity; through which, in a strait line, runs the *Watling-street*.

street. The inhabitants of all ages are here employed in a filken manufacture, and lace-making. The town consists of one long street, and is almost entirely encompassed with water.

Easton-Neston, the seat of the Earl of *Pomfret*, near *Towcester*, is a stately building, and stands pleasantly, amidst good plantations of wood, vistas, and fine prospects; but with very bad roads about it, particularly a considerable one from *Northampton* through *Towcester* and *Oxford* to *Bath*. In the grand view to the back front, beyond the garden, is a large canal; and just below the gardens, the meadows, which are of great extent, lie open to the view of the house; and the river serpentizing through these, gives a great beauty to the seat. Several curious pictures are in the house. But what was the principal glory of this seat, was the vast number of *Greek* and *Roman* marbles, statues, busto's, bas-reliefs, urns, altars, &c. part of the invaluable collection of the great Earl of *Arundel*, which were lately presented by the Countess-Dowager of *Pomfret* to the university of *Oxford*. The hall is a fine lofty room, and the great stairs are painted in fresco by Sir *James Thornhill*.

The house late the Earl of *Sunderland's*, at *Althorpe*, (now in the possession of the Earl *Spencer*, and gives title to his eldest son) has within these few years changed its face much to advantage. This ancient seat was rebuilt, with great improvement, by *Robert* Earl of *Sunderland*, great-grandfather to the present Duke of *Marlborough*; is particularly noted for a magnificent gallery, furnished with a large collection of curious paintings, by the best hands; and in the apartments below-stairs is a still more valuable one, of most of the greatest masters in *Europe*. So that there are very few collections of pictures in *England* better worth the curiosity of a traveller than this. The library is likewise particularly curious.

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of that at *Greenwich*, and was designed by *Le Notre*, the same person who planted *St. James's park*, and *Cassioberry*, as also several other parks and gardens in *England*.

There is a noble piece of water in the park, and at a convenient distance from the house is lately built an handsome square of offices; and near these is a large kitchen-garden, finely walled and planted, in which is an handsome building for the residence of the gardener, which is a model of an *Italian villa*.

From hence we went north towards *Harborough*, and in the way, we saw *Boughton*, the noble seat of the late Duke of *Montagu*, an house built by the first Duke, very much after the model of the palace of *Versailles*.

The hall is a very noble room; on the cieling is a convocation of the gods, admirably painted, as are many suits of rooms, stair-cases, galleries, &c. besides the great number of portraits and other curious pictures. The gardens contain 90 acres, adorned with statues, flower-pots, urns of marble and metal, many very large basons, with variety of fountains playing, aviaries, reservoirs, fish-ponds, canals, wildernesses, terraces, &c. The cascade is very fine, and a whole river, running through the length of the gardens, is diversified most agreeably to complete its beauty*.

The park is walled round with brick, and finely planted with trees, in excellent order. This fine seat now belongs to the Duke of *Montagu*, who married one of the daughters of the late Duke of *Montagu*.

A mile off is *Geddington*, where, in a *Trivium*,

* The plenty of water was what probably recommended this low spot. The great Duke of *Marlborough* being on a visit here, said to the noble owner, "I think your Grace's *Waterworks* are said to be finer than the *French King's*." The reply was wonderfully great: "Your Grace's *Fireworks* are."

stands one of the stone crosses, built by King *Edward I.* in memory of his Queen *Eleanor*. These are said to be the places where the corpse of that princess rested, and crosses were erected; *Lincoln, Newark, Leicester, Geddington, Northampton, Stoney-Stratford, Dunstable, St. Albans, Waltham, Tottenham High Cross, Cheap-side, and Charing-Cross.*

Near *Briskworth* stands *Maidwell*, the elegant seat of *James Scarwen, Esq;* Likewise *Lampert*, the residence of Sir *Justinian Isham, Bart.* Nearer to *Harborough* is a fine plantation of trees, a delightful piece of water, and a handsome house, called *Kelmarsh*, belonging to *William Hanbury, Esq;*

On *Willoughby* side of the road is an hillock, called *Cross-hill*, where the country people observe an anniversary festival. *Willoughby* brook plays in delightful meanders along a valley between corn-fields, with a moderate water, unless raised by rains. Here several brass and silver coins have been found, and some of gold. The people have a notion of great riches being hid under-ground; and there is a vulgar report, that under one *Balk* or *Mere*, that is, division, between the plowed fields, there is as much money as would purchase the whole lordship; but they dare not dig, they pretend, for fear of spirits. *Mosaic pavements, coins, pot-hooks, fire-shovels, &c.* have been also found.

In *Willoughby* town is an handsome cross of one stone, five yards long. The parliament-soldiers had tied ropes about it to pull it down; but the vicar quenched their zeal with some strong beer, after having harangued them concerning its innocence.

At *Cossington*, near the river *Wrek*, is a vast barrow, 350 feet long, 120 broad, 40 high, or near it, very handsomely worked up on the sides, and very steep. It is called *Shipley-hill*, from a great captain of that name, who, they say, was here buried. On the top are several oblong doubled trenches cut in the

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. 387

the turf, where the lads and lasses of the adjacent villages meet on *Easter-Monday*, to recreate themselves with cakes and ale.

At *Erdborough* is a strong *Roman* camp, 800 feet long, of a delightful prospect.

But I must not omit the town of *Wellinborough* in the county of *Northampton*. It was a large, well-built, and well-inhabited town, with a fine church and free-school. A dreadful fire, which happened here in *July 1738*, has made the town still more beautiful, though the occasion was too melancholy to be wished for. It began at a dyer's house in the town, about two in the afternoon, and in the space of six hours consumed near 220 houses, besides out-houses, barns, stables, &c. amounting in the whole to upwards of 800, mostly in the south and east parts of the town. The town is populous, and carries on a great trade in corn; there is also a considerable manufacture of lace, which, it is said, returns 5*cl.* a week into the town, one week with another. The shoemakers are said to be five hundred in number: The leather comes down from *London*, and is returned in shoes. There is a chalybeate well about half a mile long to the northward, from whence the town is supposed to have received its name.

From *Boughton* we went on to *Harborough*, a good market-town, and great thoroughfare, (which has a good free-school, and an handsome church, though properly only a chapel of ease to *Great Bowden*, its parish, which serves only for a burying-place) intending to go forward to *Leicester*; but curiosity turned us west a little, to see *Lutterworth*, famous for being the living of *John Wickliffe*, the first preacher of the Reformation in *England*, whose disciples were afterwards called *Lollards*.

The church was lately beautified, and paved with a costly pavement of chequered stone; the pews are

new, and every thing, both in church and chancel, of thick oak planks, except the pulpit, which is preserved on account of its being *Wickliffe's*.

Being thus got a little out of our way, we turned west into the *Watling-street* way, at *High-cross*, where the *Fosse* crosses it, and which, I suppose, occasioned the name, leaving *Rugby* in *Warwickshire*, a small town, noted only for a great number of butchers, on the south-west of us. At this cross we seemed to be in the centre, and on the highest ground in *England*; (though *Camden* supposes *Penn*, in *Bucks*, to be so) for from hence rivers run every way. The *Fosse* went a-cross the backside of our inn, towards *Bath*. Here are divers *Roman* antiquities: its ancient appellation was *Benonæ*. The late Earl of *Denbigh* (whose seat is at *Newnham Paddox*, in *Warwickshire*) and the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, erected here a cross of an handsome design, but of mouldering stone, through the deceit of the architect. It consists of four *Doric* columns, regarding the four roads, with a gilded globe and cross at top, upon a sun dial. On two sides, between the four *Tuscan* pillars, which compose a sort of pedestal, are *Latin* inscriptions, which may be thus translated:

The Noblemen and Gentlemen, ornaments of the neighbouring counties of Warwick and Leicester, at the instances of the Right Honourable Basil Earl of Denbigh, have caused this pillar to be erected, in grateful as well as perpetual remembrance of PEACE at last restored by her Majesty Queen Anne, in the Year of our Lord 1712.

On the other Side.

If, traveller, you search for the footsteps of the ancient Romans, here you may behold them. For here their most celebrated military ways, crossing one another, extend to the utmost boundaries of Britain; here the
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Vennonnes kept their quarters; and, at the distance of one mile from hence, Claudius, a certain commander of a cohort, seems to have had a camp toward the Street, and toward the Fosse a tomb.*

To proceed, we kept the Street-way till we came into the *Leicestershire* road, which we followed north-west to *Hinkley*, a populous market-town, very pleasantly situated on an hill. This town is noted for a large commodious church, and an high spire-steeple, all of stone, in which is a chime of six excellent bells. A very extensive trade is here carried on in the stocking manufactory. An endowment was long since made for instituting a grammar school in this town; but no use was made of it till the year 1778, when the laudable exertions of a new vicar effectuated the liberal disposition of the donor.

From hence we turned west, and came to *Nuneaton*, an ordinary manufacturing town, on the river *Anker*, and then northward to *Atherston*; and so made a kind of serpentizing Tour of it along the borders of the two counties of *Warwick* and *Leicester*, sometimes in one, and sometimes in the other.

Atherston is a market-town, famous for a great cheese fair on the 8th of *September*, from whence the cheese-factors carry the vast quantities of cheese they buy to *Sturbridge* fair, which begins about the same time, but holds much longer; and here it is sold again, for the supply of the counties of *Essex*, *Suffolk*, and *Norfolk*.

Near this town is a pleasant little seat called *Me-reval*, belonging to Mr. *Stratford*. The house stands on the edge of a steep hill, so as to command a view of the country for several miles; and from

* The *Watling-Street*, simply called *The Street*, by way of eminence.

the parlour there is a prospect of a rich vale, scattered into towns and woods, so intermixed as to afford a delightful prospect.

A little north-west of *Atherston* stands *Polesworth*, formerly a market-town; but since the dissolution of a famous nunnery which was there, the market has been discontinued.

From *Atherston* we turned east again, into *Leicestershire*, to see *Bosworth-field*, famous for the great battle which put an end to the reign of *Richard III.* and to the long and bloody contention between the two royal houses of *York* and *Lancaster*; which, as fame tells us, had cost the lives of 11 Princes, 23 Earls and Dukes, 3000 noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, and 200,000 of the common people. We viewed the spot of ground where the battle was fought; and at the town they shewed us several pieces of swords, heads of launces, barbs of arrows, pieces of pole-axes, and such-like instruments of death, which they said were found by the country-people in the several grounds near the place of battle, as they had occasion to dig, or trench, or plough the ground.

Within three miles of the said place is an ancient market-town, of the same name, lying on an hill, in a very healthy and pleasant air, and has a good free-school. The soil all round it is fruitful both for tillage and pasture.

Hence I passed directly north to *Abby de la Zouch*, on the skirts of *Derbyshire*, a very pleasant town, lying between two parks. It consists but of one street, in which stands a pretty stone cross: the church is large and handsome, and it is noted for four good horse-fairs in the year.

The Earl of *Stamford* has a good old hunting seat on this side of the country, called *Bradgate*, and a fine park at *Grooby*; but they were too much out of our

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our way; so we came on through a fine forest to *Leicester*.

Leicester is an ancient, large, and populous town, containing five parishes; it is the capital of the county of that name, and stands on the river *Soar*. It is a borough and corporation-town, governed by a mayor, who is assisted by a recorder, 24 aldermen, and 48 common council. This town sends two representatives to parliament. Here are three markets weekly, well supplied with provisions. A considerable manufacture is carried on here, and in several of the market-towns around, for weaving of stockings. Here are remains of a temple more ancient than the *Roman* state. Antiquaries say, that it was dedicated to the god *Moloch*; and by appearances it seems as if sacrifices had been made in it to some deity.

In 1771, an infirmary for the sick and wounded was here built, which receives every object of distress.

There are some good old seats in this county, with their parks; the most remarkable is that of *Hastings* Earl of *Huntingdon*. The Earl *Ferrers's* seat at *Stanton-Harold* is as large as a little town, and the gardens adorned with statues. At his gate is what may be called a late-built church, a very curious structure of square stone; of the founder whereof, an inscription on the front gives this account:

In the Year 1653,

When all things sacred throughout the nation

Were either demolished or prophaned,

Sir Robert Shirely, Bart. founded this church:

Whose singular praise it is, to have done

The best things in the worst of times.

About ten miles from *Leicester*, and on the road to *Harborough*, stands the new-built and elegant seat
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called *Gumley*, the property of *Joseph Cradock*, Esq; well known for his taste in music and poetry.

The county of *Leicester* is in part also taken up in country business, more particularly in breeding and feeding cattle. Most of the gentlemen are graziers; and it is not an uncommon thing for graziers here to rent farms from 500*l.* to 2000*l.* a year.

The sheep bred in this county and *Lincolnshire*, which adjoins to it, are, without comparison, the largest, and bear not only the greatest weight of flesh on their bones, but also the greatest fleeces of wool on their backs of any sheep in *England*: and hence it is, that these counties become vast magazines of wool for the rest of the nation: nor is the wool less fine because of the great quantity; but as it is the longest staple, as the clothiers call it, so it is the finest wool in the island, some few places excepted; such as *Leominster* in *Herefordshire*, the *South-Downs* in *Sussex*, &c. where the quantity is small and insignificant, compared to this part of the country; for the sheep-breeding country reaches from the river *Anker*, on the border of *Warwickshire*, to the *Humber*, at the farthest end of *Lincolnshire*, which is near 100 miles in length; and from the bank of *Trent*, in *Lincolnshire* and *Leicestershire*, to the bank of *Ouse*, bordering on *Bucks*, *Bedford*, *Cambridge*, and *Huntingdon* shires, above 60 miles in breadth.

These are the funds of sheep which furnish the city of *London* with their large mutton, in such prodigious quantities.

The horses bred here are the largest in *England*, being generally the great black coach and dray-horses; of which so great a number are continually sent up to *London*, that one would think so little a spot as this of *Leicestershire* could not produce so many. But the adjoining counties of *Northampton* and *Bedford* have of late come into the same business.

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The chief supply, however, is from this county, from whence the other counties rather buy them, and feed them up as jockeys and chapmen, than breed them.

In the south-west part of the county rise four considerable second-rate rivers, which run every one a directly contrary course, in a most remarkable manner.

1. The *Avon* which runs by *Rugby*, and goes away to *Warwick* south-west.

2. The *Soar*, which runs by *Leicester*, and goes away to the *Trent*, north-west.

3. The *Anker*, which runs by *Nun-Eaton*, and goes away to *Atherston*, north, and so on to *Tamworth*, west.

4. The *Welland*, which runs by *Harborough*, and goes away to *Stamford*, north-east.

I ought not to omit observing, that as the town of *Leicester* was formerly very strong and well fortified, being advantageously situated for that purpose, the river covering it half-way about, so it was again fortified in the great civil war; and, being garrisoned by the parliament forces, was assaulted by the royalists, who, after an obstinate defence, took it sword in hand, which occasioned a terrible slaughter.

They preserve here a remarkable relique of antiquity, being a piece of *Mosaic* work at the bottom of a cellar; it is the story of *Acteon*, and his being killed by his own hounds, wrought as a pavement; the stones are only of two colours, white and brown, and very small.

The castle here, before it was dismantled, was a prodigious building. It was the court of the great *Henry Duke of Lancaster*, who added to it 26 acres of ground; which he inclosed with a very strong wall of square stone, 18 feet high, and called it his *Novum Opus*, vulgarly now, *The Newark*, where the best houses in or near *Leicester* are, and do still continue extraparochial. The hall and kitchen of

this place remain still entire, as testimonies of the grandeur of the whole; the former being so lofty and spacious, that the courts of justice, which in assize-time are held there, are at such a distance, as to give no disturbance to one another. There are several gateways to enter this palace; and that which faces the east has an arch, deemed a curious piece of architecture; over which in the tower is kept the magazine for the militia of the county.

Beneath this castle was a very fair collegiate hospital, in the church whereof *Henry* Earl of *Lancaster*, and *Henry* his son, the first Duke of it, were buried: the hospital was built by the Duke in his old age, and appropriated for the maintenance of 100 poor people. Time wore out the very walls; but his present Majesty, out of his private purse, lately rebuilt this hospital, and now the aged again find an asylum in it. Another hospital built by *William Wigston*, in the reign of King *Henry VIII.* is in a very flourishing condition there. The mastership is said to be worth 400*l.* a year.

Leicester is the *Ratæ Coritanorum* of the Romans. The trace of the Roman wall is discoverable without difficulty, especially in the gardens about *Senny-gate*, with a ditch, which is very visible. This was repaired by *Edelfleda*, a noble Saxon lady, in the year 914. The old work, called *Jury Wall*, is composed of ragstone and Roman brick. Here are visible remains of a temple, or some such building.

Not far off is a place called *Holy-bones*, where abundance of bones of oxen have been dug up, which were the remains of the Roman sacrifices.

At *Leicester* many Roman coins were found; a pot full of them was dug up at the entrance into *Whitefriars*. There are also many great foundations. At *St. Mary de Pren's* abbey a body was dug up, supposed to be Cardinal *Wolsey's*.

Since its dissolution it has been made a dwelling-house,

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house, which has nothing left but the naked walls; and the spot of the abbey is turned into a garden. The only thing worth seeing in it is, a pleasant terrace-walk, supported by an embattled wall, with lunets hanging over the river, and shaded with trees.

In the time of the *Saxons*, *St. Margaret's* church was an episcopal see, and was very fine. Here, say some, King *Richard III.* was buried.

Half a mile southward from *Leicester*, upon the edge of the meadows, is a long ditch, called *Rawdikes* *; on the banks of which, according to tradition, King *Charles I.* stood to behold the storming of the town. That Prince lay at the vicarage house at *Elston*.

South-east of *Leicester* lies *Bellesden*, a market-town of no note; and further south still is *Hallaton*, another town noted for its poverty, in the midst of a rich soil.

The *Fosse-way* leads from hence through the north-west part of this county; but, entering *Nottinghamshire*, it inclines north-east, through the vale of *Belvoir*, or, as it is commonly called, of *Bever*, to *Newark*. In all this long track we pass through a rich and fertile country, having in our course north-eastward the noble river *Trent*, for 20 miles together, often in our view.

But some miles north of *Leicester* the river *Wreke*, which comes from the north-east, and the *Soar*, which runs north-west, form a kind of Y; the *Soar*, from *Leicester* southward, making the tail. In the course last-mentioned, we passed through *Montforrel* and *Loughborough*, both market-towns, lying on the *Fosse*, which runs nearly parallel with the *Soar*, and makes one side of the Y. The first is situate under a

* Probably the *Roman* summer camp of the garrison stationed at *Leicester*. A military stone, with an inscription to *Adrian*, was found about six or seven years ago, in or near the top in *Thurmasston-Lane*. It stands now in the turnpike house garden.

great eminence, and has a good stone bridge over the *Soar*; the other is a dirty, ill built town, in rich meadows. The rectory is worth 600*l.* per Annum, and belongs to *Emanuel* college. It has a large church and a free-school, besides a charity-school for 80 boys, and another for 20 girls.

Melton-Mowbray, is a small, ill-built town, (four or five houses excepted) but has a considerable market for cattle. It is situated in a fertile soil, almost surrounded with a little river called the *Eye*, over which it has two good bridges: it has also a large handsome church with a square tower, and exceedingly well fitted up within. *Burton-Lazars*, (once belonging to the knights of *Jerusalem*) is an hamlet to this parish, as are *Sysonby*, *Freeby*, and *Welby*. The pastures all about are exceeding good, and the appearance pleasing.

Waltham on the Would, (*i. e.* on the Downs) is a mean market-town; but has a charity-school.

Near *Loughborough* is the seat of the Earl of *Huntingdon*, adorned with wood and water. The house is old, and not so well situated as could be wished; but the park is esteemed one of the most beautiful in this county; and the seat is from it called *Danington-Park*.

Belvoir-Castle, standing within *Lincolnshire*, but on the edge of *Leicestershire*, is a truly noble situation, though upon a very high precipice; it is the ancient seat of the Dukes of *Rutland*; a family risen, by just degrees, to an immense height both of honour and wealth.

Bingham in *Nottinghamshire* lying in our way to *Newark*, we passed through it. It is a small market-town; but is noted for a parsonage of great value.

At *Newark* one can hardly see, without regret, the ruins of that famous castle, which, through all the great

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great civil war, kept a strong garrison for the King to the last, and so cut off the greatest pass into the north; nor was it ever taken, till the King, pressed by the calamity of his affairs, put himself into the hands of the *Scots* army, which lay before it, and then commanded the governor to deliver it up; after which it was demolished, that the great road might lie open and free: there are, however, noble remains of it still; the walls towards the river being very high and strong.

The castle was built by *Alexander* Bishop of *Lincoln*, in the reign of King *Stephen*. But a much more remarkable, because more beneficial thing, is the vast new-raised road from this castle over the flat, often overflowed by the *Trent* for more than three miles. This was completed above five or six years ago; and whether we consider the greatness or utility of the work, it may be looked upon as one of the greatest of the kind ever executed in *England*. One similar, but vastly inferior in size, has been since formed between *Godmanchester* and *Huntingdon*.

This town was certainly raised from the neighbouring *Roman* cities, and has been walled about with their remains. The northern gate is composed of stones seemingly of a *Roman* cut; and perhaps they had a town here, for many antiquities are found about it. Here are two fine stone crosses. A gentleman digging to plant some trees in the *Fosse* roadside, discovered four urns in a strait line, and at equal distances, in one of which was a brass *Lare*, or household god, an inch and half long; but much consumed by rust.

Newark is a very handsome well built town, situate on the *Trent*, under the government of a mayor, and 12 aldermen. The market-place is a noble square, and the church is large and spacious, with a curious spire; which, were not *Grantham* so near, might pass for the finest and highest in this part of *England*.

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land. The *Trent* divides itself here, and makes an island, and the bridges lead just to the foot of the castle-wall; so that while this place was in the hands of any party, as I have before hinted, there was no travelling but by their leave; but all the travelling into the north at that time was by *Nottingham* bridge. *Newark* returns two members to parliament.

The public charities of this town are very considerable. Dr. *Wilson*, the incumbent, built a very pretty street of small neat houses for poor people, which makes an opening from the market-place into the country: such kind of houses are much wanted in most large towns, particularly *Bury*, and some others.

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The following Particulars came to Hand too late to be inserted in their proper Places.

INSTEAD of the paragraph, page 8 and 9, "The towns of *Barnstaple*," &c. read as follows :

Of the towns of *Barnstaple* and *Bideford*, the first is most ancient, and returns two members to parliament. *Bideford* has of late years flourished much; but the town of *Barnstaple*, on account of the increase of sand-banks, which prevent the approach of great ships to its quay, has rather declined in foreign trade.

Page 9, line 14, *dele*, "who traffick to most parts of the world." After line 15, page 11, add :

About ten or twelve miles south-east of *Barnstaple* is *Southmolton*, a large thriving town, governed by a mayor, recorder, and 18 capital burgesses, two of whom are aldermen. This body corporate is the richest in the county, except *Exeter*. They have an handsome town-hall, and the place carries on a considerable woollen trade.

Between this place and *Barnstaple* is *Castle-Hill*, a most noble and beautiful seat, belonging to Lord *Fortescue*. This house is built under a rock, on the declivity of a hill, over and around which are groves of fine trees, and on the top of the hill is a castle, commanding an extensive prospect. The ground before the house is laid out in the most beautiful order. From a terrace before the front, you descend over a variety of slopes, with groves adjoining, to a fine piece of water in a bottom; from whence the view again rises, between the groves, to the top of a hill, opposite the front, where it is terminated by

a handsome triumphal arch. At every other point of view from this house, some agreeable object presents itself. Every structure within sight affords an agreeable appearance: barns, cots, and out-houses, wear the same livery, and appear as white as snow; and while you discover in one a church, in others the surrounding village, the rest are scattered in happy situations, affording a delightful intermixture with nature, and filling the whole with the lively and agreeable.

After line 28, page 13, add:

The town was, soon after this, elegantly rebuilt; but the old or great church, not being large enough to contain its numerous inhabitants, a chapel was built by them, and was, by an act, in 1733, made a perpetual cure. In the great church was a chapel built by the Earls of *Devon*, the Lords of the Manor, for their burial-place, now almost demolished, wherein is a tomb for *Ed. Courteny*, Earl of *Devon*, and his Countess, on which were their effigies in alabaster, richly gilt, now more defaced by men than by time, with this inscription:

Ho! ho! who lies here?

'Tis I, the good Earl of Devonshire.

With Kate, my wife, to me full dear:

We liv'd together fifty-five year.

That we spent, we had;

That we left, we lost;

That we gave, we have.

The tapestry manufactory, mentioned in page 15, we are now told, is greatly falling off, for want of proper encouragement.

Line 21, page 15, *dele*, "which last is exceedingly rich in silver."

(The gentleman who favoured us with the above, will find his other particulars, respecting this county, inserted in their proper places in the first volume.)

After

After line 9, page 137, add: *Sion-House*, the seat of his Grace the Duke of *Northumberland*, was originally a convent founded by King *Henry V.* for nuns of the order of *St. Brigit*; but, after the dissolution of the monasteries, it was granted to the protector Duke of *Somerset*, who built a very fine palace here out of the ruins; the shell of which still remains unaltered. After the fall of that great nobleman it reverted to the crown, and so continued till *Henry Percy* ninth Earl of *Northumberland* obtained first a lease, and afterwards a grant of it. It thenceforth continued to be the residence of the Earls of *Northumberland*, and so descended to their great heiress and representative, the late Duchess of *Northumberland*; who, with her illustrious consort the present Duke, soon after it came into their possession, began to improve and embellish it; and have now rendered it one of the finest villas in *Europe*. Instead of the old formal garden, surrounded with high walls, which intercepted all view of the river, here is now a most delightful extent of pleasure ground, laid out in the finest lawns and slopes, intersected by a most beautiful serpentine river, and expanding its fair bosom to the *Thames*, which seems only like a noble canal, to divide these from *Richmond* gardens; and, what is very extraordinary, is seen from every front of *Sion-House*, which is a perfect square, embattled and ornamented in the angles with embattled turrets. His Grace, who is a great patron and judge of the sciences, and has a distinguished taste for botany, has here assembled the choicest trees and plants from all quarters of the globe; so that their forming the most beautiful walks imaginable, is but their subordinate merit, for they afford what may inform the naturalist and instruct the philosopher. It is well known, that the first genuine tea plant from *China* that ever flowered in *Europe*, was exhibited in the conservatory at *Sion*, in 1773.

The

The entrance to this magnificent villa from the great western road, is through a beautiful gateway adorned on each side with an open colonade, so as to give to passengers a view of the fine lawn which forms the approach to the house. Here, amid large clumps of stately trees, and over a continuation of the serpentine river, mentioned before, in the garden, the visitor is conducted to this princely mansion, and by a large flight of steps ascends into the great hall; which is a noble oblong room, ornamented with antique marble colossal statues, and particularly with a very perfect and excellent cast of the dying gladiator in bronze, which has the most happy effect from its position as you enter by a flight of marble steps into the vestibule.

This is a square apartment finished in a very uncommon style; the floor is of scaglioli, and the walls in fine relief, with gilt trophies, &c. But what particularly distinguishes this room are twelve large columns and sixteen pilasters of verde antique, containing a greater quantity of this scarce and precious marble, than is now perhaps to be found in any one building remaining in the world: on the columns are twelve gilt statues.

This leads to the dining-room, which is finished with a very chaste simplicity, and is ornamented with beautiful marble statues, and paintings in *chiaro oscuro*, after the antique. At each end is a circular recess separated by columns, and the ceiling is in stucco gilt; the elegant simplicity of which forms a fine contrast to that of the drawing-room, which immediately succeeds.

The coved ceiling of this fine room is divided into small compartments richly gilt, and exhibiting designs of all the antique paintings that have been found in *Europe*, admirably executed by the best *Italian* artists. The sides are hung with a very rich three-coloured silk damask, being the first of the kind

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kind ever executed in *England*. The tables are two noble pieces of antique *Mosaic*, found in *Titus's* baths, and purchased from the Abbé *Furietti's* collection at *Rome*. The glasses are about 108 or 109 inches, by 65, being two of the largest that then had ever been seen in *England*. The chimney-piece is of the finest statuary marble, inlaid and ornamented with *or. moulû*, and is much admired for the very beautiful taste in which it is conceived and executed.

This conducts to the great gallery, which also serves for the library and museum, being about 133 feet long. The book-cases are formed in recesses in the wall, and receive the books so as to make them part of the general finishing of the room, and the authors are well chosen. The chimney-pieces are perfectly correspondent with the other ornaments, and are adorned with medallions, &c. The whole is after the most beautiful stile of the antique, finished in a remarkably light and elegant manner, and gave the first instance of stucco-work finished in *England*, after the finest remains of antiquity. The cieling is richly adorned with paintings and ornaments, answerable to the beautiful taste that prevails in the other parts of this superb gallery. Below the cieling runs a series of large medallion paintings, exhibiting the portraits of all the Earls of *Northumberland* in succession, and other principal personages of the noble houses of *Percy* and *Seymour*; all of which, even the most ancient, are taken from genuine originals.

At the west end of the room are a pair of folding doors into the garden, which uniformity required should represent a book-case to answer the other end of the library. Here, by a very happy thought, his Grace has exhibited the titles of the *Lost Greek* and *Roman* authors, so as to form a very pleasing deception, and to give at the same time a curious catalogue of the *autores deperditi*.

At each end of this gallery is a little pavilion, or closet, finished in the most exquisite taste; as is also a beautiful closet in one of the square turrets rising above the roof, which commands a most enchanting prospect.

From the east end of the gallery are a suite of private apartments, that are extremely convenient and elegant, and lead us back to the great hall by which we entered.



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